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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
With Saipan casinos back on the table, how should the issue be decided: By voters acting on a legislative initiative or by lawmakers acting on a bill?

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INSIDE

Water Supply
A total of 23 distribution areas on Saipan now enjoy 24-hour water service.

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Stalemate
The Wisconsin Senate succeeds in voting to strip nearly all collective bargaining rights from public workers.

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Red Riding Hood
Amanda Seyfried, what big eyes you have.

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Judge OKs Miah's release on bail. PAGE 3
Vendor of China-made Viagra pleads not guilty. PAGE 6

Fire was alleged insurance scam

» **Blast occurred during fire at clothing store;**
» **Owner claims over $400K in insurance policy**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A fire that engulfed a clothing store in Garapan in October was intentionally set off so that its owner could claim $404,718.53 in insurance proceeds, according to an insurance company.

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Stanley to prefile new casino bill

» **House panel to substitute his bill with that of Froilan's**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) said yesterday he is introducing a new casino bill that he said will be more helpful to Rota and Tinian, while the House Ways and Means Committee is looking at substituting Torres' bill with that of Rep. Froilan Tenorio's (Cov-Saipan).

The committee, which held a brief meeting yesterday, is reviewing Torres' House Bill 17-130 or the Com-

See STANLEY on Page 4

LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL
Acting governor Eloy S. Inos, seated center, is flanked by Commonwealth Utilities Corp. officials and lawmakers after he signed yesterday afternoon a bill restoring CUC's procurement authority, removes the $250 million price tag to privatize the utilities agency, and paves the way for CUC to enter into agreements with private producers of renewable energy such as solar, wind, geothermal, biomass or nuclear battery.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO See story on Page 2

New RFP on La Fiesta Mall revitalization out

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The government issues today a new request for proposal on the operation and revitalization of the former La Fiesta Mall in San Roque, some two years after issuing the first RFP that drew only one proposal.

That lone proposer, Bridge Capital LLC, negotiated with the government since 2009 but the talks broke down and the government recently decided to reject the proposal and issue a new RFP.

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos said yesterday that the government looks forward to the proposals from the private

See LA FIESTA on Page 4

USDOE twits PSS for non-compliant SPED standards

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Education has found the CNMI Public School System's special education program non-compliant with a number of federal standards and has required it to take corrective actions in four areas.

In a Feb. 8 letter to Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Melody Musgrove, USDOE Office of Special Education Programs director, gave PSS 90 days—or until May 10, 2011—to submit a report on the steps taken to address concerns.

USDOE found the following missteps in the local SPED program:

- It has not made findings of noncompliance using all components of its monitoring system;
- It has not ensured the timely correction of noncompliance when a written finding of noncompliance was not issued following the discovery of noncompliance;
- It has not also developed procedures for ensuring that juveniles with disabilities who are detained in juve-

See USDOE on Page 4

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Local

New law scraps $250 million CUC privatization price tag

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos signed into law yesterday a bill scrapping the $250 million price tag to privatize the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and paves the way for CUC to immediately partner with private producers of renewable energy such as solar, wind, geothermal, biomass, or nuclear battery.

"We're pleased with this development and we will work with CUC to make sure it [renewable energy] happens, and happen fast," Inos told the crowd of mostly CUC officials and lawmakers in the governor's conference room on Capital Hill.

CUC executive director Abe Utu Malae announced at the signing that they are now preparing a request for proposals on a solar photovoltaic generating project.

He said the solar photovoltaic RFP could be out in two to three weeks.

CUC officials said they will also be notifying the Public Utilities Commission about the planned release of the RFP.

Inos said this is welcome development, adding that he looks forward to having a renewable energy portfolio standard of at least 50 percent of net electricity sales within seven years of a private sector assistance agreement.

"We look forward to achieving that milestone," Inos added.

House Bill 17-114, Senate Substitute 1, Senate Draft 2, Senate Substitute 2, Conference Committee Substitute 1 is now Public Law 17-34.

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), author of HB 17-114, said he's happy that the acting governor signed his bill into law, which also restores CUC's procurement authority.

Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota), chair of the Senate Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications, said the CNMI cannot continue to rely on fossil fuel.

CUC power rates and pump prices of gasoline have steadily gone up, while reduced work hours and pay cuts have become common in the CNMI.

Inos said the administration continues to ask lawmakers to address other matters "to improve the livelihood of people in the community."

Malae said besides the solar photovoltaic RFP which will be the first to be released, CUC is also working on at least two other RFPs: one on energy efficiency at the power plants and a hybrid system that combines gasification and wind.

CUC has met with at least 12 producers of renewable energy in at least eight months, he added.

Inos, in an interview later, said the Legislature has yet to allow CUC to hire nonresident workers by law instead of through the governor's state of emergency declaration for CUC, which continues to be extended since 2008.

The CUC privatization bill is one of the priority bills identified by both the Fitial administration and the 17th Legislature in January to help boost the sagging economy.

The bill's author said without this bill, investors interested in either taking over the whole CUC or those wanting to supply CUC with renewable energy won't be able to formally enter into agreements with CUC.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial vetoed a similar House bill last year mainly due to his objections to the Senate amendments.

Among the key provisions of the new law include exempting renewable energy providers from the net metering law, expounding on the types of renewable energy projects, and adding a "build-operate-own contract" to the list of allowable private sector assistance agreement.

Resolution seeks to honor retired US Army officer

A resolution that commends a retired military officer from Rota has been pre-filed at the House of Representatives on Wednesday.

Commemorative Resolution 17-16, authored by Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota), aims to recognize retired Sgt. Maj. Herman Manglona Atalig for being selected as the CNMI Instructor of the Year and for his numerous contributions to his island community.

Atalig, who served his country for 28 years, began his distinguished military career when he enlisted in the Army in 1968 and worked his way up the U.S. Army ranks.

He has earned numerous awards and citations, including the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, two Air Medals, Army Commendation Medal with Seven Oak Leaf Clusters, Republic of Korea Ranger Badge, and the Chief Gaddao Award.

Atalig also served as the instructor for the Army and Senior Army Junior Reserve Office Training Corp and led the Buck Battalion to five Gold Stars: Honor Unit with Distinction, which is the most prestigious JROTC achievement.

He has attended various conferences and volunteered over a hundred hours for community service activities.

"It would be extremely difficult to find a person with similar compassion and devotion to his country and public service, like that of Sgt. Maj. (ret.) Herman Manglona Atalig, a man who has dedicated his life to his country and to the residents of this Great Commonwealth, most especially to the children and community of Rota, contributing with all generosity and unselfish dedication of his precious time," Santos said.

The resolution is expected to be discussed and adopted during the next House session.

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Judge OKs Miah's release on bail

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The federal court has allowed the temporary release of an auto shop owner accused of conspiring with four others in a driver's license scam.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge John A. Houston on Wednesday afternoon granted Mohammad Jahangir Miah's renewed motion to be released pending his trial.

Houston ruled that conditions of release could be set for Miah's temporary liberty.

The judge ordered the defendant to post a $5,000 unsecured bond, to be co-signed by his wife and co-defendant, Tahira Dolores Miah.

Attorney Joseph Horey, counsel for Miah, stated in the motion that his client should be released on the same conditions that have already been imposed on his co-defendants, or on such other conditions as the court may impose.

Horey asserted that detention based solely on a finding of danger to the community is not proper under the applicable law.

Miah has been in jail since his arrest on Dec. 12, 2010.

On Dec. 17, 2010, the federal court ordered Miah's detention based on a finding of a "serious risk that the defendant will endanger the safety of another person or the community."

Miah then moved for his release pending trial, but the court denied the motion.

In opposing the motion, assistant U.S. Attorney Kirk Schuler cited Miah's previous convictions and several pending criminal cases in the Superior Court.

According to the indictment, Miah and co-defendants Tahira Dolores Miah, William A. Hocog, Hongmei Sun, and Hui Qiang Yan, conspired to illegally produce and transfer at least three driver's licenses at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to three foreign nationals in exchange for money.

ESGR banquet will recognize outstanding CNMI employers

In an effort to support local businesses that employ members of the National Guard and Reserve, the Guam-CNMI Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve will hold its 2nd Annual Employer Awards Banquet on Saturday, March 12, in the ballroom of the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

This event, themed "We all Serve," is a celebration of employers in the CNMI. It will start at 7pm; cocktails begin at 6pm.

The banquet will honor nine of the CNMI's outstanding employers who support their servicemember employees. More than 100 employers, community leaders, and servicemembers are expected to attend this invitation-only banquet.

"This is our chance to say 'thank you' to the public and private businesses that support our local men and women in uniform," said Foundation for Employers president Paul D. Leon Guerrero, whose organization is sponsoring this event.

"When those moms and dads, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters get called to duty to serve our country, their mind needs to be on their mission—not worrying about losing their jobs while they're away," he said.

A similar banquet will be held for employers in Guam next month.

"Our goal is to show those devoted employers a night of fun while maintaining active support from public and private sector employers," Leon Guerrero said. "They are true patriots and they also serve!"

By law, employers must hold jobs for men and women who serve in the Guard and Reserve when they get called to duty. This allows servicemembers to focus on the mission so they can safely return home.

ESGR is a Department of Defense agency established in 1972 under the auspices of the Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs.

Its mission is to gain and maintain active support from all public and private employers for the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve by advocating relevant initiatives, recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of the law, and resolving conflicts between employers and service members. ***(PR)***

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Admin to shrink $201M raw budget submissions to $120M

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Fitial administration is faced with a daunting task of reducing to $120 million the $201 million in budget submissions by all agencies under the Executive, Legislative and Judicial Branches for fiscal year 2012.

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos, at the same time, said if there's going to be a change in the $120 million in estimated revenue available for appropriations, it will only be to further lower it down and not to increase it.

The estimated $120 million budget for $2012 is already a $12 million reduction from FY 2011's budget of $132 million.

The administration asked all agencies to submit their individual department budgets by Feb. 28. When all submissions were computed, it totaled $201 million, Inos said.

"That's way off the mark," Inos said yesterday.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the budget submissions include those from Northern Marianas College and the Public School System.

Inos said the Office of Management and Budget started its budget meetings with individual agencies on Tuesday to be able to reduce the $201 million requested appropriations to only $120 million.

The Executive Branch agencies' budget alone is capped at $53.3 million.

"We want to be informed about all the needs of the departments and that's why we're having all these meetings to determine priority and individual department needs. Keeping in mind that we need to fund the critical services, activities first, to be followed by support services and thereafter, services that are necessary… We're kind of setting our own priorities," he said.

The budget meetings continued yesterday with the Department of Land and Natural Resources, the Department of Commerce, and the Governor's Office.

"We've compressed the schedules so that we'll have enough time beginning March 15 to start compiling what we like to see as the final budget that we will submit to the Legislature, and which hopefully will not exceed $120 million," Inos added.

House minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan) is suggesting that the Fitial administration start identifying now the government agencies and programs that will be eliminated, suspended or reorganized in FY 2012, rather than wait until the last minute to do so.

Benavente said a "transition" period will prepare these agencies and the employees affected.

"We need to make that decision today so we can provide a transition period. This will affect not only the employees but also the services provided to the community," he told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview.

Inos said the reduction in budget for 2012 would mean additional and stricter austerity measures than in fiscal year 2011.

The current budget already requires a 16-hour pay cut every payroll and unpaid holidays for most government employees.

The Fitial administration has until April 1 to submit its 2012 budget package to the Legislature.

The Legislature has five months to timely pass a bill or the government may partially shut down again just like last year.

STANLEY

From Page 1

monwealth Casino Control Act.

Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan) separately said the committee, which he is a member of, is looking at substituting Torres' bill with that of Tenorio's HB 17-56 as a substitute to Torres' HB 17-130.

Villagomez, along with Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan), said a final decision will be made next week.

HB 17-56 is one of two bills that Tenorio introduced last year but has since been in a committee. Tenorio's first one, HB 17-55, passed the House but was killed by the Senate.

Torres, in an interview yesterday, said he may pre-file his new casino bill today or next week.

"In my new bill, Rota and Tinian will get a big portion of the revenue from casino operations…I believe the new bill will make Rota and Tinian happy. They will get a mandatory slice of the pie and it will be fair. We will leave it up to each delegation's discretion on how they want to spend it," Torres told *Saipan Tribune.*

He said his new bill will retain the required minimum $100 million investment to operate a casino on Saipan.

"If investors are serious, then they would need to invest a minimum of $100 million and no less than that. We don't want crackerjack casinos," said Torres, one of the longest serving lawmakers.

But he said his new bill will no longer make it "mandatory" for a casino investor on Saipan to also invest on Rota and Tinian with $50 million in minimum investment on each of those two islands.

Torres said it will now be up to the Saipan casino investors if they also want to invest on Rota and Tinian, where there are already operating casinos.

But while Torres is working on a new bill, the committee that is reviewing his pending bill is looking at reviving Tenorio's bill from last year.

Tenorio's HB 17-56 or the Saipan Casino Control Act of 2010 seeks to help the economy of Saipan and that of the entire CNMI recover.

Saipan voters twice rejected the legalization of casino gambling on Saipan.

House minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan) reiterated that the least lawmakers could do is to let voters again decide on the Saipan casino issue rather than having the matter decided only by lawmakers.

Benavente was among the six House members who voted "no" to Tenorio's HB 17-55 in August.

In recent weeks, different groups of investors, including those from Hong Kong and South Korea, have been meeting with lawmakers to express their interest in operating casinos on Saipan.

Their proposed investments range anywhere from $5 million to $300 million.

At the same time, Bridge Investment Group LLC renewed its commitment on Saturday to pursuing its $40 million to $50 million casino and condominium project on Tinian after almost two years since halting construction at its staff housing.

USDOE

From Page 1

nile correctional facilities receive special education and related services in accordance with their individualized education programs; and

■ It does not have procedures to calculate state-level of financial support for the Part B program in the CNMI.

Suzanne Lizama, the CNMI-PSS special education program coordinator, described these issues yesterday as not serious and are only a heads-up from the federal agency.

"It's not serious. [The USDOE letter] is a heads-up to make sure we monitor our program like other federal programs," Lizama told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that the citation bears no impact or consequence to the NMI special education program.

As far as Lizama is concerned, she believes that "we are still within the requirements, otherwise they will note a periodic visit here if they found it serious."

Based on Musgrove letter, the CNMI is required to resubmit by May 10, 2011, its revised monitoring procedures.

The CNMI is also being required to provide a written assurance that it has provided training to all providers and monitors to ensure that individualized family service plans (IFSPs) include all of the mandated requirements.

"We're working on it," said Lizama.

Among the citations, she said the issue on "monitoring procedures" is the major one. The other concerns require no action from PSS, she added.

'Improvement initiatives'

Meantime, Musgrove recognized several improvement initiatives being implemented in the CNMI that are designed to improve results for infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities.

She found that all high school students with disabilities have a course of study form as one of their transition requirements. This form includes all the courses, with appropriate accommodations, that a student needs to complete in order to graduate from high school with regular diploma.

The CNMI also hosts a family weekend project to focus primarily on providing technical assistance to parents to help them effectively advocate for their children.

Additionally, Musgrove appreciates the cooperation and assistance provided by the CNMI in providing feedback and input on the system for early intervention and special education services.

Every four years, OSEP conducted verification visits to a number of states and territories as part of its Continuous Improvement and Focused Monitoring System for ensuring compliance with, and improving performance under Part B and Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or IDEA.

According to Musgrove, the verification visit, which was conducted in November 2010, is to review the CNMI's systems for general supervision, the collection of reported data, and fiscal management, as well as the CNMI's systems for improving child and family outcomes and protecting child and family rights.

LA FIESTA

From Page 1

sector on how to operate and revitalize the former mall.

The CNMI government has been paying for the lease of the La Fiesta property, yet it has not earned a single cent from it since at least 2004.

This was the reason why the government invited proposals from the private sector in 2009 on how to revitalize the former mall, turn it into a revenue-generating property, and help maintain the property's value.

The new RFP, which is RFP11-SOF-067 is being published today, while the scope of work will be available on or after March 15, 2011 at the Finance secretary's office on Capital Hill.

The submission date is on April 5 at 10am.

Richard Pipes, vice president of Bridge Capital, said yesterday that Bridge Capital would like to see the new RFP.

He said based on their current estimate, it will cost at least $6 million to fix and renovate the mall.

Pipes said Bridge Capital's proposal was not only about putting video lottery at the site, but also to put a performing arts center, a cultural center and high-end shops, bars and restaurants, among other things.

"Our proposal was not limited to gambling. We want to make it a tourism mecca," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

Inos said earlier that the government does not have a problem with the operation of video lottery at La Fiesta, but it should be a part of a larger tourism project at the facility.

Bridge Capital chief executive officer and managing member John K. Baldwin said last week that they will respond to a new RFP once the CNMI government issues it. He said the company is "still fully committed to assisting the CNMI government in revitalizing the La Fiesta Mall."

Pipes said Bridge Capital is concerned that the government will try to split the contracts into several ones; for example, one for renovation, one for operation management, one for surveillance and monitoring, etc.

He said it will be best to have one single contractor or operator for the facility.

In related news, Bridge Capital announced yesterday its conceptual ideas contest wherein they invite "architects, engineers, designers, draftsmen and dreamers in the CNMI" to submit their ideas of how to develop La Fiesta Mall into a mixed use facility that will attract and sustain tourism.

Bridge Capital said in the announcement that it is willing to spend up to $5 million to renovate the abandoned mall. ***(See story on Page 19)***

Bridge Capital is an international investment banking, real estate, hospitality and asset management company headquartered on Saipan but with interests and investments throughout Micronesia, the U.S., and Southeast Asia.

In March 2007, Bridge Capital bought interest on the La Fiesta property from the Japanese-owned Coco's Lagoon Development.

FIRE

From Page 1

FirstNet Insurance Company, through counsel Richard W. Pierce, said an investigation undertaken by a professional in the field confirmed arson as the cause of the fire at BL Clothing Store.

Zheng Rui Brother Corp., owner of BL Clothing Store and BL Tailoring Shop, allegedly obtained an insurance policy from FirstNet Insurance on July 3, 2010, against fire loss on the contents at the store. The fire broke out at the store three months later, in the early morning hours of Oct. 30, 2010.

FirstNet Insurance is now suing Zheng Rui Brother Corp. and is asking the U.S. District Court for the NMI to declare it free from any obligations to Zheng Rui Brother Corp. FirstNet is also demanding attorney's fees and court costs.

Saipan Tribune tried to obtain comments from Zheng Rui Brother Corp. yesterday but the store and shop were still closed.

Police spokesman Tom Blas said he would check the Fire Division today, Friday, about the results of their investigation on the blaze.

FirstNet's complain alleges that on the night the fire broke out, one or more persons used accelerant to ignite multiple fires within the BL Clothing Store, located on the ground floor of a two-story commercial building in Garapan.

Pierce said the fire quickly consumed the contents and scorched the walls, resulting in an explosion.

When firefighters arrived at the scene, they forced open the locked doors to gain entry to BL Clothing Store.

Pierce said that, on Dec. 27, 2010, Zheng Rui Brother Corp. filed a proof of loss with Equitable Adjusting and Service Company of Guam in order to collect on the FirstNet policy. Equitable Adjusting and Service Company of Guam serves as the adjustor for FirstNet.

Zheng Rui Brother Corp., Pierce said, valued its lost inventory and equipment at $404,718.53, and it claimed for that amount against FirstNet under the policy.

The defendant, however, allegedly failed to present documents, such as checks, invoices, and shipping documents to support its inventory sheet or the current value and quantity of the items that were allegedly destroyed by the fire.

Pierce said FirstNet then investigated the facts associated with the proof of loss and learned that one or more persons associated with Zheng Rui Brother Corp. started the fires so that it could obtain the insurance proceeds.

He said Zheng Rui Brother Corp. increased the hazard to the insured contents by the introduction of petroleum products and heat to the premises.

"The FirstNet Policy does not cover losses resulting from the intentional acts of the insured, in this case, the defendant," Pierce said.

A tailor at BL Clothing Store told *Saipan Tribune* a few hours after the fire that he learned about the blaze only that morning as he was about to report for work and his neighbors told him about it. The tailor said he called his employer, who then told him there's no need to work because the shop was already gone.

He said the shop and store were full because eight sacks of new clothing had just arrived from China a week prior to the fire.

The storage room in the back, the tailor added, was also full of clothing materials.

2 lawmakers donate new bushcutter to SSHS

Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) and House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) donated a new bushcutter to Saipan Southern High School yesterday afternoon.

Palacios said it's always good to be able to help schools and the community.

He said it's the school principal, Jesse Tudela, who requested him and the speaker for two bushcutters but he said they could only come up with one for the school at this time.

"They're happy with the new bushcutter they have so they can maintain the school grounds. We also asked Mr. Tudela if they could also use the bushcutter for nearby areas outside the campus," he said.

A bushcutter costs some $550.

The two Precinct 1 lawmakers also look to donating a bushcutter to the Koblerville Neighborhood Watch. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

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Vendor of China-made Viagra pleads not guilty

The operator of a retail store in western Garapan pleaded not guilty yesterday to charges of selling unapproved erectile dysfunction drugs from China.

Wei Yuan Ou appeared in the U.S. District Court for the NMI with court-appointed counsel Stephen Woodruff. Jean Shi served as interpreter for the defendant.

Ou waived advisement of his constitutional rights and reading of the charges. He pleaded not guilty to the complaint charging him for selling misbranded drugs in interstate commerce.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge John A. Houston set the jury trial on May 16, 2011 at 9am.

Garrett Chinn, special agent with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Office of Criminal Investigations Honolulu Domicile Office, stated in an affidavit that his office is currently investigating SU US MART with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations.

Chinn said their investigation showed that Ou bought unapproved erectile dysfunction drugs made in China and sold them at his retail store, the SU US MART.

Chinn said an undercover agent managed to purchase 17 tablets of the drug worth $70 from Ou on Feb. 14, 2011, and 12 more tablets worth $48 from the same suspect on Feb. 17, 2011.

Erectile dysfunction drugs like Pfizer Inc.'s Viagra are prescription medicines that require a doctor's prescription for purchase, according to the agent. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Pai: Proposed fiscal commission may be redundant, unnecessary

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Public auditor Michael Pai says a proposed Commonwealth Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform may be "redundant" and "unnecessary" because its missions are already under the purview of other government agencies.

For example, one of the proposed commission's missions is to offer recommendations designed to balance the budget.

The public auditor said the CNMI Constitution and the Planning and Budgeting Act already require this.

"Therefore, the governor must always submit a balanced budget based on Department of Finance's revenue projections and the Management and Budget Office's expenditure allocation. An annual appropriation bill is then prepared and submitted to the Legislature," Pai said.

Pai made the comments in a letter to House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations chairman Rep. Rafael Demapan (Cov-Saipan), relating to House Bill 17-160.

Demapan's committee is currently reviewing the bill, for recommendation to the full House to either pass it or reject it.

HB 17-160, introduced by Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota), seeks to create a nine-member commission to, among other things, identify policies to improve the CNMI's fiscal condition and achieve fiscal sustainability in the long run.

Under Santos' bill, the commission will be under the Office of the Governor.

Pai said the proposed commission's other mission is offer recommendations that meaningfully improve the long-run fiscal outlook, including changes to address the solvency of the NMI Retirement Fund, which he said is already the responsibility of the Fund's board of trustees.

"The board is more familiar with the NMIRF's operations and would therefore be more qualified to propose legislation that may ensure the fiscal health of the NMIRF," Pai told Demapan.

The public auditor also said issues such as the government deficit, government debts, and the solvency of the Fund, among other things, should not be addressed by the proposed commission "but by financial professionals or by the independent boards of applicable agencies."

HB 17-160 also authorizes the commission to propose recommendations on pending legislation with respect to funding needed for such legislation's intent to be fully implemented.

Pai said the objective to ensure availability of funding for any spending bill is commendable.

But he said creating another commission plus appointing the top and most critical CNMI government officials as its members may not be a practical way of achieving this objective.

"Identifying available funding or recommending potential funding sources should be a research responsibility of the individual introducing legislation," Pai told Demapan.

IRS releases tax lien on CPA over $184,072 tax obligation

The U.S. Internal Revenue Service released yesterday its federal tax lien on the Commonwealth Ports Authority over non-payment of $184,072.78 in Employers Quarterly Federal Tax Return.

IRS notified the U.S. District Court for the NMI that CPA has satisfied the taxes and all statutory additions.

Therefore, IRS said, "the federal tax lien for the taxes and additions has been released."

In April 2010, IRS filed a notice of federal tax lien in federal court against CPA for its failure to pay $184,072.78 in Employers Quarterly Federal Tax Return from the tax period ending December 2007 through June 30, 2009.

In June 2010, CPA executive director Ed Guerrero stated during a board meeting that IRS has fined CPA $176,000 after a probe uncovered CPA's failure to comply with the federal agency's reporting requirements.

Guerrero said the penalty arose from "discrepancies" uncovered in CPA's payroll system from fiscal years 2007 through 2009.

The CPA board in that meeting approved a request to increase CPA's operational budget for that current fiscal year in order to pay the obligation to IRS. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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- Winners will be informed via email on April 30, 2011.

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- 1st Prize: $200 Shopping Spree at Super Fresh Market.
- 2nd Prize: Bumper to Bumper Maintenance Package valued at $100 at Triple J Motors.
- 3rd Prize: $100 Gift Certificate at Tony Roma's.
- 4th Prize: $100 Gift Certificate at Capricciosa.
- 5th Prize: $100 Gift Certificate at Truong's Vietnamese restaurant.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Kagman High PTSA meeting set

Kagman High School's PTSA meeting is on March 23, Wednesday at 6pm in the school's cafeteria. The upcoming PTSA Conference is on the agenda, among others. Bring a dish of what you can share; foods or snacks with coconut milk is highly recommended. We'll tell you why at the meeting. ***(PR)***

SSHS sets PTSA meeting

Saipan Southern High School will have a PTSA meeting on Wednesday, March 16, 2011, from 6pm to 7pm in the Manta café. ***(PR)***

30th reunion of Class of 1981

This is to inform all graduates classes of 1981, whether you graduated at Marianas High School, Guam, or in the U.S. mainland: There will be class reunion meeting on Saturday, March 26, 2011, at 5:30pm on Beach Road Oleai, middle pavilion north of the Oleai Beach Bar & Grill.

For more information, contact Donald San Nicolas at 237-3791, Merced (Che') Q. DLGuerrero at 237-3625, Diana T. Takai at236-8383, or Mary (Maria) Apatang Babauta-Calilion at256-1094. See you at the meeting. ***(PR)***

House Vice Speaker on *Marianas Agupa*

The Chamorro talk show program *Marianas Agupa* will feature Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro tomorrow, March 12, 2011. The show is from 10am to 10:30am on Magic 100.3 FM. Topic of discussion will be on the role of women in the socio-economic and political development, empowering women in the CNMI, women's perspective on land alienation, submerged lands, and immigration.

The talk show is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona. It will feature reports by former mayor Joseph S. Inos, Thomas D. Mendiola from Rota, former senator David M. Cing from Tinian. Simultaneous Internet streaming via www.magic100radio.com will be available. ***(PR)***

Autism awareness walkathon in the works

A coalition of National Honor Society presidents, known as the National Honor Society Alliance, is planning an "Autism Awareness Walkathon" to take place on April 2, 2011, which is Autism Awareness Day. They are raising funds to help get vital information in the hands of teachers and parents as well as start a student outreach program in the CNMI. Part of the NHS Alliance are Kagman High School's Alexis Hofschneider, Saipan Southern High School's Kaelani Demapan, Marianas High School's Dowen Jocson, Mount Carmel School's Maria Balajadia, and Grace Christian Academy's Lauren Hofschneider. If you have any questions or would like to help, contact Maria Balajadia at 285-9375 or via e-mail at maria.balajadia@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Mar. 11, 1999

Panel sets hearing on power project

A public hearing set for the new 80-megawatt power plant on Saipan will be held only after the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation has completed an independent review of all proposals submitted for the project, according to legislators. The House committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications is scheduling the town meeting to determine whether the government should back up the $120 million project that has been mired in controversy. PUTC chair Rep. David M. Apatang said the panel wants to make sure that the final CUC decision will not be in conflict with the provision of the proposed legislation.

Saipan mayor weighs wage cut, shortened working time

The Office of Saipan Mayor is planning to carry out a 10 percent across-the-board salary reduction or a seven-hour per day work in a move to save operations amid shrinking revenue. Although the Mayor's office has not made any decision on when it would implement a salary cut, officials already met two weeks ago to discuss the plan. Fiscal and Budget officer Ray Diaz could not be contacted for comment on the alleged plan. Based on the plan, the Mayor's Office will be able to save some 167,831.55 for the year if it would adopt a 10 percent salary reduction. But it would be able to save $208,290.50 should it implement a seven-hour work per day scheme.

Mar. 11, 2002

EPA approval of process in PCB treatment hangs fire

The fatal incident at the PCB treatment site in Tanapag may affect the US Environmental Protection Agency's issuance of a final approval for the thermal desorption treatment being used as a method to eliminate the harmful chemical from more than 20,000 tons of soil at the village. Michelle Rogow, the EPA's on-scene coordinator, said the burning incident that killed Filipino machine operator Roberto Alarzar and injuries to two other workers, has brought concerns over safety at the treatment site. Rogow, who was expected to come out with the results of the ITD machine's proof of performance tests upon her arrival last week, said these were not ready yet as of press time.

RP hospital eyed for medical referral

The Department of Public Health is eyeing Philippine hospitals in connection with its medical referrals program, as the department mulls measures to cut costs. This was disclosed by Health Secretary James U. Hofschneider, who said his office has already made initial talks with the Philippine Consulate General office on Saipan. Hofschneider said his office has met with Ernie Regino, a welfare officer at the Overseas Workers' Welfare Administration, one of the offices at the consulate. The DPH wants the Philippine consulate's help in identifying potential hospital partners in the Asian country.

Mar. 11, 2003

NMC mulls health services programs

The Department of Public Health is working out with the Northern Marianas College the possibility of health-related services programs being offered at the college. In particular, DPH Secretary James U. Hofschneider wants the NMC to offer a short-term hemodialysis service certification program. The department is currently pursuing a $10 million hemodialysis center project on Saipan. "I just talked with Dr. Hofschneider about developing a health technology program to assist in providing health care in the community. We're proceeding with this," NMC president Kenneth Wright said yesterday.

NMC Foundation challenges Legislature

The Northern Marianas College Foundation announced yesterday its support for a plan put forward by the NMC Regents to build the College into a Pacific gateway for higher education by offering to raise an amount equal to 10 percent of whatever the CNMI government appropriates for the project. The Foundation's action could amount to a commitment to raise as much as $1 million since the proposal NMC has set before the Governor and the Legislature carries a price tag of $10 million. Board Chairman Jerry Tan, who is also the executive vice president of Tan Holdings Corp., said, "Ordinarily, it is the funding agencies that issue challenge grants to solicit private donors. We believe in this project so strongly that we have decided to turn the tables.

ATTENTION, SAIPAN DOG OWNERS

Dog tagging starts May 3

Losing your dog could be a very sad experience. Dogs are more than just pets; they are also guardians and companions. It is said that dogs are more loyal than other animals and are in fact, even more loyal than most of us; hence, a dog is considered man's best friend.

No matter how we try to keep our dogs always within sight, however, they sometimes go astray. Chances are, without any form of identification, they may not be returned by those who find them and they might be gone for good. This is where the importance of a dog identification tag comes in. Since your dog cannot speak for himself, the dog identification tag will tell the finder where to return your lost dog.

Saipan Local Law 9-12, also known as the Saipan and Northern Islands Dog Control Act, authorizes the municipalities of Saipan and the Northern Islands to adopt rules and regulations for the control and licensing of dogs and to administer and enforce such rules and regulations. This municipal law requires all dog owners to register their dogs every year.

In line with this, the Saipan Mayor's Office is informing the public that the tagging phase of Saipan Local Law 9-12 will be implemented on May 3, 2011. The venue and schedule for dog registrations will be announced later.

Under the dog licensing provision of the local law, "no person shall own or have in custody or control any dog, male or female, over the age of four months, without at all times having upon such dog a collar or harness to which shall be securely fastened a tag as provided in the regulations in this subchapter. Said tag may be issued at any time during the calendar year and may be issued for a period of 12 months. The tag shall be obtained from the supervisor or designated office, inscribed with the letters and words 'Saipan Dog Tag' and with the serial number of the tag. The tag shall be sufficient only during the period for which the tag is issued."

Each application of a dog license tag shall state the age, sex, color, and breed of the dog for which the license is desired and the address of the owner. ***(PR)***

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Date : Sunday, March 13, 2011
Location : Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan
Time : Registration check-in 8:00-9:00am, games will start at 9am
Entry Fee : $10 per team member ($5 discount for NMIVA members)
includes games, Gatorade, t-shirts and prizes for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place
Divisions : [1] 14 U • [2] 17 U
Teams : 4-person co-ed, one female player on the court at all times
Up to 5 players per team

Registration Deadline: Friday, March 11, 2011 at 5PM
Register with Mili Saiki at milisaiki@hotmail.com or call (670) 288-9660

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Frida… : Syabu-syabu, Seafood barbecue, Sauteed Bitter Melon, Coco, Rice, Napa Soup
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Opinion

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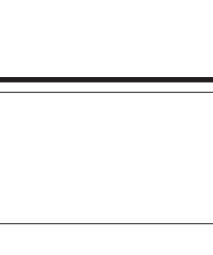
America can't be timid



By FRIDA GHITIS
The Miami Herald

Frida Ghitis writes about global affairs for The Miami Herald. *Readers may send her e-mail at fjghitis@gmail.com.*

Until now, Washington has reacted timidly to the extraordinary events convulsing the Middle East. The United States has behaved as a nervous bystander, afraid to make the wrong move, not as a self-assured country with much at stake—morally, strategically and economically—in the outcome of the pro-democracy uprisings.

It is not too late for President Obama to display innovative and courageous leadership in a process that will continue for months and years. This country has an important role to play in the move from dictatorship to democracy. This does not mean launching a military invasion. Washington has other tools, and it needs to use them to help ensure a positive outcome to this historic moment.

Washington faced a profound dilemma when protesters demanded the resignation of Egypt's Hosni Mubarak. He had proven a loyal ally. On the other hand, the protesters demanded freedom and democracy, America's founding principles. For U.S. leaders, the choice was either betraying a friend (and sending a troubling message to other allies) or betraying its own democratic ideals. In the face of that dilemma, Obama chose not to take sides for as long as he could, calling only on Egyptian authorities to refrain from violence. You could almost see the president's hand, checking to see which way the wind blew. America clearly wanted to stand with the winning side.

Admittedly, the decision seemed wrenching. But there was another way: Instead of viewing it as a lose-lose situation, Washington could have used strong links, ideological or personal, to each side. Before Mubarak fell, humiliated by his people and ultimately by the United States, he had already agreed to stand down in just a few months, and to keep his son out of power. The gap between his offer and the protesters' demands was narrow. Washington could have tried to bring them together and negotiate a more dignified and coordinated exit. There was no guarantee of success. But if it worked, this could have allowed for a better lead-up to elections, and a better chance that liberal democracy will emerge.

When Libyans rose against Col. Moammar Gadhafi, there was no dilemma for Washington. Gadhafi had a track record of outrageous actions. Still, Washington spoke only timidly for too many days. It took Gadhafi slaughtering his own people for Washington's tone to finally change.

Even in 2009, when Iranians protested a stolen election, the United States seemed to fear standing up for democracy.

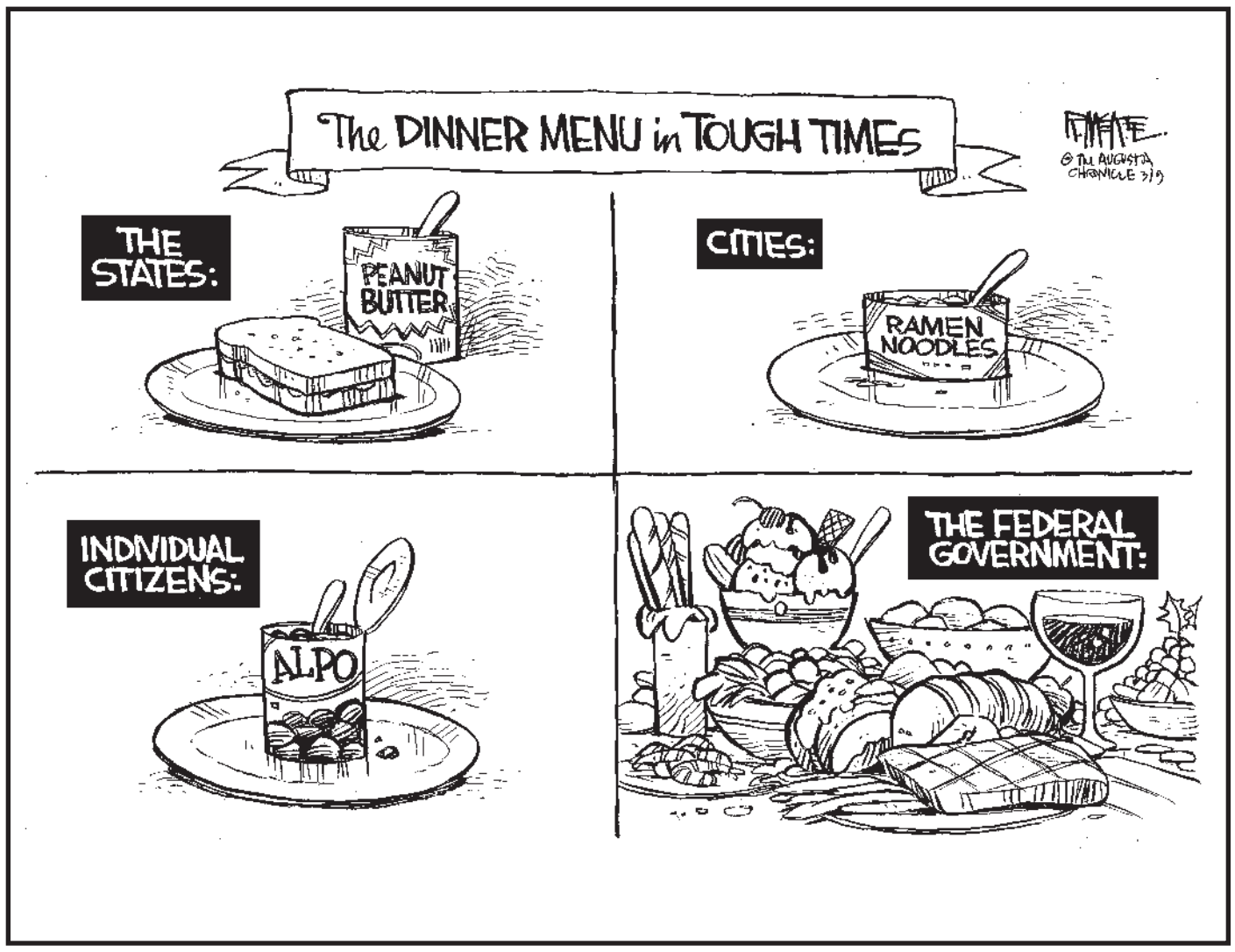
Despite what some of his critics say, President Obama appears to have a natural aversion to strong or controversial positions. It leaves the impression that Secretary of State Hillary Clinton can barely restrain an urge to speak out more forcefully and rally the world.

At this hinge of history, the United States cannot afford to act as a bystander. A new era is beginning in the most crucial region of the world. And this country, still the most powerful on Earth, has a responsibility to do its part in shaping the future. The United States must work for democracy, human rights, peace and, yes, a stable global oil supply.

Other countries have already jumped into the fray. Clinton told Congress that Iranians "are doing everything they can to influence the outcomes." Even Venezuela's Hugo Chavez introduced a mediation proposal for Libya.

The people of the Middle East will soon rewrite the rules that will

See AMERICA on Page 14



What do people do in the 16th minute of fame?

In America today, there are four stages of public life: schlub, rising star, star, and motivational speaker.

Consider Colin Powell. The ROTC program at City College of New York led to a 35-year Army career that culminated with four stars and an appointment as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He was national security adviser to President Ronald Reagan, secretary of State under President George W. Bush.

Great American hero, if you overlook that sales job he did to the United Nations on weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. But his days as a star are over.

But now you can see him live! In person! At the Get Motivated! seminar April 27 at the Scottrade Center in St. Louis! Learn his secrets of "take-charge leadership!"

And he's just one of the fabulous speakers in the daylong Get Motivated! seminar. See and hear former first lady Laura Bush! Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani! The formerly incredibly Rev. Dr. Robert Schuller, founder of the Crystal Cathedral and former host of the "Hour of Power"! Former bag-boy-turned-Super Bowl-quarterback Kurt Warner! And more!

Admission at the door is only $225 per person, but if you act now, you can get a ticket for $1.95 or send your entire office for $9.95!

How can this possibly be? How can $1.95 get you in to see and hear this many stars, not to mention this many exclamation points! There must be a catch!

Oh, there is.

In 1968, Andy Warhol famously predicted that "In the future everyone will be famous for 15 minutes." What he failed to note was that when their 15 minutes are up, many of those people will become motivational speakers.

It's hard to make it in the motivation racket these days. The field is hideously crowded, what with everybody and his dog claiming to be a motivational speaker.

This is only a slight exaggeration. Many motivational speakers actually bring their dogs with them—sled dogs, guide dogs, trick dogs. Also, former Cardinals second baseman Rex ("The Wonder Dog") Hudler is a motivational speaker, as is Cesar ("The Dog Whisperer") Milan.

To make it in this industry, you've really got to have (a) a big name or (b) a gimmick. Inspiring stories of overcoming adversity with perseverance and a positive attitude are a dime a dozen.

For more than 25 years, Peter Lowe's gimmick has been volume. His firms (there have been at least three) flood arenas with multiple big-name speakers, advertise heavily in newspapers (always a smart move) and offer teaser prices to attract early ticket buyers.

Get Motivated Inc., of Tampa, Fla., which Lowe operates with his wife, Tamara Lowe (it will not surprise you to learn that she, too, is a motivational speaker), is behind the April 27 event in St. Louis.

Is it a scam? Not really. But there are some asterisked aspects to it.

By KEVIN HORRIGAN
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Kevin Horrigan is a columnist for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. Readers may write to him at:* St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 900 North Tucker Blvd., St. Louis, Mo. 63101, or e-mail him at khorrigan@post-dispatch.com.*

To begin with, do the math. Colin Powell, at the peak of his post-government service earning power, was getting as much as $150,000 per speech. Speakers bureaus were quoting $75,000 for Laura Bush and $100,000 (plus travel in a Gulfstream IV or bigger private jet) for Rudy Giuliani.

The further a celebrity's fame gets past its expiration date (and you'd have to think Giuliani is way past his 15 minutes), the less they can command. But if you bring all three into St. Louis on one day, plus lesser lights like gas-bag former football coach Lou Holtz, Kurt Warner and eponymous magazine editor Steve Forbes, plus three more veterans of the motivational circuit like Schuller, sales training expert Krish Dhanam and former executive Howard Putnam, you're looking at $300,000 thousand in talent fees.

(Who's Howard Putnam? He's the guy who left a job as president of Southwest Airlines in 1981 to take over Braniff. I've made a couple of career moves like that myself. Maybe I should be a motivational speaker.)

If you put 20,000 people into the Scottrade Center, you've got to get $15 a head to pay the talent. Add in advertising, travel, lodging, hall rental, security, etc., it's an additional $5 to $10 a head. So how do you make any money?

Something called "upselling," for one thing. You contact the guy who buys a ticket for $1.95 and talk him into a better seat for $50. How are you going to get motivated up there in the nosebleeds?

Something called "lead generation, for another thing. Everybody who attends has self-identified as a potential client for sales and investment kits and advice. Get Motivated! seminars always include several unadvertised speakers touting books, sales programs and videos.

If the speakers do their jobs, people are motivated and pumped up—after all, that's why they came. How hard could it be to persuade them to whip out their plastic and buy a book-and-video kit? The mark-up on such items is ridiculous, and the Lowes have a piece of it on the back end.

Get Motivated! promises a money-back guarantee on all its materials. So here's my motivational speech: Persevere, maintain a positive attitude and keep your receipts.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Saving Saipan money with freeware

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at TropicalEd.com. Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday.

Energy costs gotcha' down? Economic problems turning you cranky? Well, go ahead and kick your car, and by all means cuss your light bill, but don't forget to hug your computer. After all, you can pretty much run the whole thing for free these days. So let's enjoy some good news for a change and take a fresh look at today's freeware. Hey, I'm all for cheap thrills!

And I'm not alone. Many folks use multiple computers these days, with one for static duty, and another, smaller one for road chores. It's simply not financially feasible to load up multiple computers with expensive software.

For your convenience I've provided links to all the freeware listed below on a page (TropicalEd.com/free) at my website. Your comments and suggestions are always welcome so I can update the page.

This freeware works on Windows XP and sometimes on other platforms as well. You'll notice some old friends here and some new faces, too:

1) **Perapera-kun**
Perapera.wordpress.com
This is one of many useful "add-ons" for the Firefox Web browser. It's a pop-up Web translator for Japanese, Chinese, and Korean. The only version I've tried is the Chinese one, and it's very handy.

2) **OpenOffice**
OpenOffice.org
This essential office suite's official name is "OpenOffice.org," same as the website. It mimics some Microsoft applications, for example, Word and Excel. It's so well-known that you don't need me to blabber on about it. So I won't.

3) **Avast!**
Avast.com
Several *Tribune* readers have recommended this anti-virus application. I've been using it for a couple of years and have found it to be lightweight and user-friendly. It also monitors Web use in real-time in order to intercept booby-trapped sites. Version 6 is the latest, but I've yet to upgrade from version 5.

4) **SumatraPDF**
SumatraPDF lets you read PDF files without having to let Adobe Acrobat take up residency on your hard drive. The URL is too long to list here, sorry. Anyway, it's a tiny program, about 2MB. Nice!

5) **CutePDF writer**
CutePDF.com
Need to write to PDF format? This does it. It looks like a printer on your printer list, so you just "print" a document with it and, presto, it makes a PDF. I use it all the time. The company also offers an array of related products for reasonable prices.

6) **Skype**
Skype.com
I wrote about this computer telephony program on Jan. 21 so I won't re-hash it here. It's popular in the Commonwealth. Since you can set up an account for free, and even make video calls for free, I can't see a reason not to try it.

7) **AbiWord**
AbiSource.org
This word processor's straightforward design is elegantly simple. Unlike certain big name word processors, AbiWord is actually capable of digesting copy the way it's typed. There are no obnoxious "features" tugging at my necktie: No smarmy "pop up" suggestions, no dancing paper clips, no cartoon light bulbs, no underlining stuff I didn't underline, no capitalizing stuff I didn't capitalize, no forcing my paragraphs into bullet-point formats. Enough already! Lady, I've got work to do, so go away and leave me alone.

Anyway, by happy contrast, the unassuming AbiWord never pesters me, and is so lightweight that it's scarcely bigger than a digital song. The latest Windows version, 2.8.6, is all of 8MB. If I had to be stranded on a desert isle with just one program, this would be it.

8) **NoScript**
NoScript.net
This is yet another Firefox add-on. It's a safeguard against scripts (Java, JavaScript, etc.) on websites running without your permission. Note that its address is a dot-net, not a dot-com.

■■■

One last note: A useful site for freeware is OldApps.com, which has archives of older freeware applications for Windows, Mac, and Linux.

Stick in the eye

By DAVID KHORRAM, M.D.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

David Khorram, MD, is a board certified ophthalmologist and the medical director of Marianas Eye Institute, which as been hailed by Retinal Physician Magazine *as "one of the best-equipped eye clinics in the Asia-Pacific region." Dr. Khorram is listed in* Guide to American's Top Ophthalmologists *and is a member of the American Society of Retina Specialists.*

This week a young man walked into my office with a stick in his eye. Well, the stick wasn't actually still in his eye. Come to think of it, it probably wasn't a stick that had caused the perforation. It was probably a rock. He had been bush-cutting, without safety goggles, and now he was sitting in my exam room, with the guts of his left eye hanging out. I spend my days working with eye guts, and I'm rather fond of them, but I never like to see them sitting on someone's cheek. I can't think of any circumstances under which eye-guts-on-cheek is a good thing.

You would be surprised at how often eye injuries happen. Dr. Robertson and I see them pretty much every day at Marianas Eye Institute. Most of the time, they are minor—scratches and pokes by everyday objects like a random fingernail, or an excited mascara brush (ouch!). These are painful, but with the right medication and with time, most of them heal up. On rare occasion, a minor injury can get infected, and cause loss of vision, and that's why we usually prescribe a few days of antibiotics for these injuries.

The more serious injuries are usually the result of more force: an accelerating fist, attached to the arm of a 250-lb guy, splitting the recipient's eye open; a hammer mis-striking a nail, sending it like a rusty dart into the hammerer's eye; or the ever-present bush-cutter hurling a piece of something dirty toward an unsuspecting eye. No one wakes up in the morning thinking, "I'm going to get my eye perforated today," but it happens. Safety goggles probably won't help you much in that bar fight (in fact, if you're wearing them, they could be the reason you're getting beat up—"I told you to stop looking at my girl through those polycarbonate safety glasses!"). But most of the time, the most severe injuries could have been prevented by wearing safety goggles. It's a simple step, but I'm surprised how often people ignore it.

I took the young man to the operating room, and used hair-thin sutures microsurgical techniques to sew his left eye back together. I had to cut some of the guts out, so his eye won't look completely normal, but his vision has been saved. But he still faces a problem. With these kinds of "dirty" injuries—injuries involving rocks and sticks and nails and other things that spend time in the dirt—the risk of infection is high. But there is even more danger: the kinds of bacteria and fungi that live in the dirt can be particularly difficult to treat. Even though his eye is back together, and he can see, things can still go bad.

So, as you pick up that hammer, or strap on that bush-cutter, or undertake any gardening or home-workshop task, take an extra moment to put on those safety glasses. It could help keep your eye guts where they belong.

Disclaimer: Topics discussed are for example or illustrative purposes only, and are not to be taken as medical or professional advice. Comments or questions? Call Dr. Khorram at 235-9090 or contact him through www.MarianasEye.com.

Letter to the Editor

My thoughts on Article 12

Having read numerous articles regarding Article 12, I would like to offer my thoughts on this issue. I am not in favor of repealing Article 12 but rather making the necessary amendments that resolve concerns of individuals.

I heard reasoning from someone in support of abolishing Article 12 stating that our poor economic decline was because of land alienation. This is a false statement because we all know that the U.S. is going through some difficult economic times and has drastically cut spending. We have seen the effects of the U.S. budget cuts with the reduction of federal monies being appropriated to social and welfare programs in the CNMI and other insular areas.

Second, if Article 12 was responsible for our poor economic decline then why was the CNMI and its people beneficiaries of the economic boom that happened during the late '80s and early '90s. This economic boom provided local families with financial stability from job opportunities, real estate transactions that produced wealthy families, and business opportunities that fostered prosperity and economic growth.

Now that the money is all gone, Article 12 is the culprit and being targeted as the main reason for our misfortunes. Within the last year, CUC, not Article 12, was the primary reason for most of the business closures and people relocating to either Guam or the U.S. for better opportunities. Had the military buildup occurred on Saipan and Tinian instead of Guam we would have an economic boom even with Article 12 and we wouldn't even be having this discussion and that's the simple truth.

It's ironic to even hear discussions about Article 12 being responsible for our poor economic conditions or even its constitutionality when back in 1968 when the economy was incomparably worse than today, members of the *Covenant negotiators* were cautious about reintegration with Guam because the members were concerned that the people of Guam were economically advantaged and were in a stronger position to buy up local lands, leaving many CNMI people landless. How many supporters of abolishing Article 12 were members of the Covenant negotiating team, consultants, and active participants? How many supporters of abolishing Article 12 were members of the different constitutional conventions that occurred over the years? How many supporters of abolishing Article 12 benefited financially from the economic boom?

In addition, the lead economist during the Covenant negotiations recommended property tax as an additional revenue generating measure. I don't believe that I have ever heard any recommendations from individuals or families who support abolishing Article 12 who were "land rich" ever advocate for the implementation of property taxes to help alleviate the payless paydays, provide attractive salary compensation for law enforcement officers, teachers, and long time government employees, or fund other critical government obligations.

I have heard Guam's economy used as a reference in many discussions in support of abolishing Article 12. Well, I attended school in Guam and was fortunate to be friends and classmates with those individuals whose parents owned land in Tumon. The commonality that some of these families shared were that they once had large sums of money and now it's all gone (land and money). The truth is that many people in Guam respect and acknowledge the importance of preserving Article 12 in the CNMI. Many people in Guam who I spoke to wanted to buy land but said that if Article 12 is abolished here, the CNMI and its people will suffer the same fate as Guam with many people being either homeless, landless or both.

According to the 2000 Guam census, of the 38,390 households in Guam, 55 percent or 21,170 households qualify as extremely low to low income. The same report also states that of the 38,790 households, 55 percent of households qualify as extremely low to moderate income. The report also showed that extremely low to moderate income households are twice more likely to be renters than homeowners and the renters in Guam outpaced homeowners 13 to 7.

We recently heard about the grounding of Cape Air flights on two separate occasions. I happened to experience the ordeal and it was not fun forcing myself to fly at 3am because if I didn't the next flight back home was three days later. Having said this, how does anyone expect our economic situation to improve if we can't have stable, reliable, and especially affordable flights in and out of the CNMI?

Our inability to control and provide consistent flights hampers our tourism market. Combine our flights with our high utility cost, poor infrastructure, inadequate and inconsistent water service, high crime rate against tourist and businesses, dirty beaches and vandalized tourist sites, and the abundant population of stray dogs—how can anyone say these are the recipes for economic prosperity? How can we continue to blame Article 12?

Our past political leaders who were self-serving also contributed to our economic disaster because there was no 5-10 year master plan. A perfect example was the Retirement Fund losing millions of dollars repeatedly over the years. My father was a retiree and I expressed concern that during the unstable market maybe a safer form of investment would be better but because I was nobody I was ignored. After all these years and millions lost, the Retirement Fund acts.

There were also no plans on financial investment with the monies realized during the economic boom. Instead of investing in our future the government and those in charge spent it away by excessive hiring, executing big professional contracts, paying ghost employees, and leasing expensive cars, sole source contracts, off-island luxury retreats, open government credit card, shopping, etc. This is why we are in this mess…not because Article 12!

Danny Aquino Jr.
Susupe, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

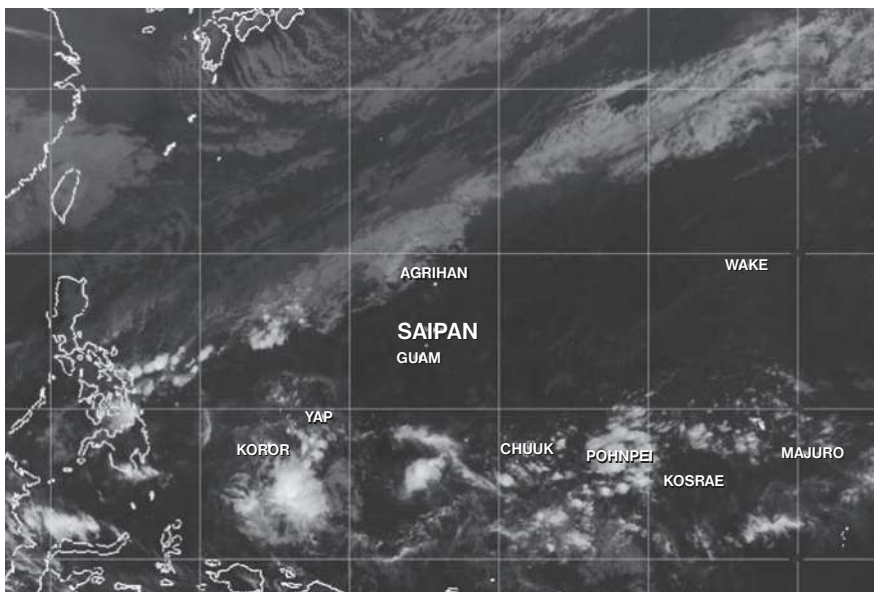
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲84	▼77
Palau	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲89	▼77
Chuuk	Rain	▲82	▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77
Kosrae	Showers	▲86	▼77
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲71	▼63
Beijing	Sunny	▲69	▼35
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲69	▼64
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲81	▼70
London	Partly Cloudy	▲50	▼39
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲68	▼51
Manila	Thundershowers	▲84	▼74
Melbourne	Sunny	▲85	▼61
Miami	Sunny	▲74	▼52
New York	Showers	▲54	▼36
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲53	▼37
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲53	▼41
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲54	▼40
Rome	Sunny	▲60	▼40
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲56	▼42
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	▲59	▼49
Seoul	Sunny	▲51	▼31
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲53	▼37
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲50	▼36

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line north of the CNMI extends southwestward from 25N158E to beyond 130E at 13N. Clouds and patchy rain are found along and up to 300 miles northwest of this boundary. A trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms southeast of Koror within an area bounded by a line from 8N136E to 8N139E to 3N139E to 3N132E back to 8N136E. A surface trough extends northeastward from a weak circulation near 3N147E to 10N161E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found across Chuuk and Pohnpei between 150E and 160E from 1N to 9N and well south of Guam within 170 miles of 7N146E. Trade-wind convergence is generating widely-scattered showers across Kwajalein and Majuro but north of Kosrae between 6N and 10N east of 162E to 170E and between 5N and 9N east of 170E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:12 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
10:44 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
6:09 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:28 AM	6:26 PM
Saturday	6:27 AM	6:27 PM
Sunday	6:27 AM	6:27 PM
Monday	6:26 AM	6:27 PM
Tuesday	6:25 AM	6:27 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:16 AM	11:35 PM
Saturday	11:06 AM	
Sunday	11:59 AM	12:28 AM
Monday	12:56 PM	1:22 AM
Tuesday	1:55 PM	2:14 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM

CO9317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
CO9313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
CO9601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
CO9603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
CO9605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, ,4, 5, 6
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
CO9317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
CO9313/933	7:55am	9:25pm	3 via GUM
CO9313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau
CO9603/933	3:05pm	9:25pm	5 via GUM
CO9603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7
CO9605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
CO9599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
CO9603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM-SAIPAN

CO9316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
CO9596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
CO9600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
CO9602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL286	7:45pm	12:20am+1	2, 3, ,4 ,5, 7
DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:50am	2:20am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

CA987	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ716/603	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
DL172/286	8:05am	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
CO890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/CO9596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
PR110/CO9596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
CO892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM-Palau
CO892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM-Palau
CO934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 7 via GUM
CO934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM
CO934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM
CO934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
CO910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
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- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
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FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Letters to the Editor

Matters the Senate recommendation overlooked

The Senate has drafted its final recommendation to the U.S. Congress on improved immigration status for nonresident workers, and now the new game plan on all this requires four senators traveling to Washington D.C. to deliver the document. Let me get to the critical point about the shortsightedness of the Senate in its recommendation and point of views. As far as I am concerned, the final thoughts sidesteps critical issues that will continue to plague and confront the CNMI, in particular Saipan, as this island is the workhorse that provides Tinian and Rota the critical resources to survive and enjoy a lifestyle and livelihood that they would not otherwise have on their own strength. The thoughts that formulated the Senate's view based solely on the public hearings did not take into account the empirical conditions of social and economic situations hammering the CNMI government at the moment because these critical data are absent in the final report. These critical matters are situations in the CNMI and situations of the CNMI. The Senate report should take into account what I think are empirical conditions that would merit a closer examination by Congress.

The Senate recommendation failed to ascertain that:

1. The CNMI government is financially broke and insolvent. We have traversed a path from the heyday of the garment industry to the doom of present day retrenchment. The Senate failed to explain how and why our Performeter has been on a downward trend since 2002. The criteria used to formulate this score should serve as significant factors in explaining to Congress that it is a concern and why sustaining a large number of unemployed contract workers in the CNMI is dragging the CNMI and the indigenous people to further economic disaster.

2. Employment in the CNMI is demand driven. The demand for labor or contract workers has materially gone down compared to the demand level in 2002. We have at present an excess of labor that would have been expatriated or voluntarily removed as this is further dragging the economy to an unmanageable condition. The CNMI must engage in a cooling off period to check and figure out the picture of the future. This would require no less than a five-year cooling off period for the CNMI to determine how and when it would establish the alien labor importation and certification program for subsequent employment of present contract workers whose employment contracts are valid and renewable, and newcomers pursuant to a legitimate application by a licensed and justified employer in the CNMI. The removal of this cooling-off period in the initial draft of the Senate's recommendation as published in its website in February 2011, is not acceptable. The CNMI government should be given ample time for this purpose. It is not unreasonable to ask Congress for such condition.

The perpetuation of excess contract workers in the CNMI only brings hardship to the governed and the leadership on these islands because it faces these hurdles that would have otherwise been a simple process of expatriating contract workers at the expiration of their employment contracts.

The question is, "Who is really in control of immigration in the CNMI?" If a worker enters into a contract for employment, the contract does not give the contract worker the "right of passage" to permanent residency in any of the jurisdiction in the CNMI. If an individual wishes to establish residency and seek elevated or improved immigration status, the person should be allowed to pursue such desire under the immigration laws of the U.S. If the employment contract is the prevailing arrangement, then it should be for employment while the contract is legally enforceable and valid; approved and recorded for legitimacy by the host jurisdiction, i.e., the CNMI government.

3. The limited usable and livable spaces in the CNMI could only sustain a given number of people. The garment industry increased the population on the island of Saipan and such spike in population over a short period of time made difficult for the local government to catch up with corrective actions to control the movement and proliferation of people on these islands. Natural population growth over time could be sustained in terms of the economic and social impacts it exerts on the land. The perpetuation of the present population would continue to put an enormous burden on an already congested island. If the representatives of Rota and Tinian want to see their islands congested, then that is their prerogative. Hence, the message to Congress is to get rid of the excess contract workers who are unemployed and are not able to find suitable employment because of the present economic conditions affecting the domestic economy.

4. The deteriorating environment brought about by the massive population growth in such a short period of time is a continuing struggle for the CNMI government. We have reverted our attention to fixing the tourism industry after the crash of the garment industry, but the former is dependent on a clean environment. The CNMI government should put a brake to the continued destruction and degradation of the environment. This deterioration of the environment is the result of overpopulation and the continuing slow responses by the CNMI government to correct and solve environmental problems.

5. The overtaxing of the present infrastructure such as public utility, hospital, roads, airports, seaports, schools, and the poor construction methods of homes are matters that Congress should be aware of as these CIP needs are a direct burden to U.S. taxpayers in which the CNMI does not contribute a penny to federal coffers. Whether or not the CNMI government deserves to get a share of the pie in grants or otherwise, it is nonetheless U.S. taxpayers' money that is being distributed to insular areas. If population growth is not put under control, Congress should be forewarned that it would be a matter of issue in the future for funding, similar to insular areas seeking compensation for the impact of hosting FSM and FAS citizens. This is a matter that has not resolved itself and problems continue to persist as host governments continue to lose financial resources that could be put to better use for more urgent and higher priority needs of its citizens. Removal of unemployed contract workers is the first order of business.

6. The level of unemployment among indigenous people is a matter that was not part of the recommendation. It is important that Congress is apprised of this situation because of the burden to U.S. taxpayers concerning transfer payments to the needy and income recovery programs where the CNMI is included. There is a need to specify positions for the U.S. citizen labor force. Any need to import workers should be part of the "alien labor and contract worker certification program" mentioned earlier. Nonetheless, the employment of qualified U.S. citizen should be the priority. The minimum wage policy would slowly change the landscape on the employment of non-U.S. citizen workers. Only properly capitalized and well managed businesses would prevail; otherwise it is to be expected that some level of Fair Labor Standards Act violations by unscrupulous employers will occur. The minimum wage standard would increase the cost of doing business of small businesses, then the domino effect takes over in which contract workers could no longer find employment in these establishments that have shut down. The minimum wage is a matter that the federal government imposed on businesses in the CNMI; it is actually a factor that takes away and limits employment. You would need to present statistical information and simulation models to drive the point to members of Congress. Chances are the four horsemen traveling to Washington D.C. have no empirical data and information to present to Congress. This is going to be a disgrace and an act of a fool making a presentation in front of well meaning and honorable members of the U.S. Congress where expectations are highly structured on protocol.

7. The draft recommendation does not include the input of indigenous people residing outside the CNMI. The CNMI Election Commission estimates that some 3,000 indigenous people are presently residing in the U.S. mainland. This significant size of the indigenous population could give an insight to Congress as to why such significant numbers are being forced to reside in the U.S. mainland. The absence of such piece of information shows that what is being presented in the final report does not include a significant voice and what these indigenous people have to say as to why they left the CNMI should be an important matter for consideration by Congress. Certainly, the report being presented do not include the voices of these indigenous people and they could not be represented as they have not participated in any public hearings that the Senate conducted on the three islands of the CNMI.

Recommendations:

1. Allow the CNMI a cooling off period of at least five years so that it could figure out how the CNMI government can best handle the slew of global and domestic economic blows it could not control and sustain for the long haul.

2. The FAS-like immigration flexibility draws attention to the commitment by the United States to these islands under the convention of the Trusteeship Agreement of the United States. The contract workers in the CNMI were never covered by any lawful convention under a treaty like the trusteeship agreement. Contract workers are employable for as long as they are engaged in a contract of employment in the CNMI subject to the laws on employment. If a contract worker wishes or desires to seek permanent residency, then that should be a matter under the applicable immigration laws of the United States. Improved status for contract workers should be subject to existing immigration statutes and such laws should be applied to eligible persons.

3. It is more efficient for the U.S. government to issue a one-way travel visa allowing travel to any jurisdiction of the United States for all eligible and bona fide aliens now living in the CNMI who meet the 10-year continuous stay in the CNMI threshold. Admitted aliens wishing to remain in the CNMI would continue to enjoy employment privileges for as long as they are lawfully and fully employed under an approved employment contract. Because of the full implementation of U.S. immigration laws, any alien desiring admission to the United States under its immigration laws should apply

See MATTERS on Page 14

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MATTERS

From Page 13

for and process such according to U.S. immigration laws. National security issues should fall under the full jurisdiction of the United States.

4. Removal of unemployed contract workers should be a continuous process as these individuals are in violation of employment laws of the CNMI and immigration laws of the United States. Employers who are responsible for the repatriation of contract workers after their lawful stay and employment in the CNMI should not be excused or let off the hook in their responsibility of returning such contract workers to their point of hire.

5. Indigenous people now residing in the mainland should be given a chance to be heard in a public hearing in the same way that others in the CNMI were able to voice their concerns over this important matter. It is unfortunate that only those interested in alien immigration matters in the CNMI are on the railroad track, but for the most part a majority of the indigenous people in the CNMI are not aware of what is going on except for the representation they might have gained from their elected officials but nonetheless could not have participated as they can only speak and understand in the vernacular. Is this democracy in its purest form and is it acceptable? The real question is whether those in position to think this out and represent the true and unfiltered interest of these unfortunate indigenous people will act and check their moral compass to protect these people that have lived on these islands for generations.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice an opinion on this issue. I invite other indigenous people to follow the thoughts as outlined above. I salute those who make a deep commitment to preserving the CNMI islands for the indigenous people. All indigenous people must stand and be counted as shepherds of these islands, no more and no less.

Francisco R. Agulto
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

AMERICA

From Page 10

guide their future. They will change their laws and elect new governments. Most of them have little, if any experience with democracy. That makes their political systems vulnerable. But the revolutions come from an ideology that is all but made in the USA. That's an opening for Washington to help.

In the aftermath of World War II, the U.S.-made Marshall Plan turned into a hugely successful effort to build liberal democracies in Europe. Americans helped bring prosperity, peace, and strong alliances.

Given the political realities at home, Washington will not start a new massive aid program. But it can play a major role in helping the Arab people build democratic institutions and political parties. It must do it carefully, without tarnishing the credibility of those who embrace the ideas America supports.

As for those still struggling to bring down dictators, Washington must speak strongly and lead, not follow, the international response. It has started taking more credible steps in Libya. In other countries, it might help mediate the introduction of reforms.

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EDITORIAL

Selling fake dreams

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No doubt you've seen the TV commercials: Enroll in so-and-so college and you, too, can find gainful employment in the lucrative whatever field.

The come-on sounds really nice. But too often it's just that, an enticement that leaves young people strapped with a college-loan debt and very little chance of obtaining a job in their major.

Part of the problem is that the for-profit colleges that typically run such ads are not required to disclose crucial information about their graduation or job-placement rates. As a result, vulnerable students may blindly make education decisions that haunt them financially for years.

To correct that, the Obama administration has proposed new rules that hold for-profit colleges and community colleges more accountable. The "gainful employment" rule sets standards to assess whether career and vocational training programs are adequately preparing students for employment. It also considers whether former students actually earn enough to repay their loans.

The National Black Chamber of Commerce has applauded efforts to scuttle the rule, saying it would cost 100,000 jobs. "Gainful Employment unfairly singles out for-profit schools, whose student bodies are comprised of 39 percent minorities," it said in a statement.

Meanwhile, the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights said the new rule is needed "to protect students from for-profit colleges that have used the American Dream as bait to trap vulnerable students into underperforming schools and saddle them with a lifetime of debt."

Federal student aid accounts for 90 percent of the revenue for for-profit colleges. But the government estimates about 16 percent of for-profit programs could lose their eligibility for federal loans and grants under the new rules.

That would not be a tragedy. Some for-profits have graduation rates below 10 percent; they should do better or close. Tuition and fees at for-profit colleges are twice the cost at public schools. Their enrollees represent only 12 percent of college students, but 43 percent of loan defaults.

It's time to rein in these schools, and their deceptive advertising.

Rota's Women in Action makes waves

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A year since its inception, Rota's Women in Action Association continues to make waves in their island community.

"I'm very proud to say that we are very successful in our organization," director Laura Manglona told *Saipan Tribune* during the International Women's Day celebration last March 8 at the Saipan World Resort.

Manglona, who is also the vice president of the CNMI Women Association and chair of the Rota Gaming Commission, said the group of 20 active members was founded in February 2010 by Rota first lady Estrella Mendiola.

"Wwe're doing a lot of programs that are really helping the community," she said.

Manglona said the Women in Action takes a pro-active approach in their endeavors. "Despite the economic downturn, we are really working hard and making things happen that's why we call our organization Women In Action," she said.

Manglona disclosed that the group originally started with about 50 active members. With the economic situation, however, she said they understand why other members cannot join their activities.

"With 20 members, I say it's a good number to make the organization very active and working," she said.

Some of their activities include sponsoring Chamorro essay competitions in schools, dance contests for K to 12 levels, visiting the hospital and providing fruit baskets to the sick, sponsoring lunch during *Mes Mana'mko*, and participating in the San Isidro Fiesta.

To subsidize their projects, Magnlona said they hold fundraising activities that residents support "because they all know that whatever fundraising we do, it goes back to the community."

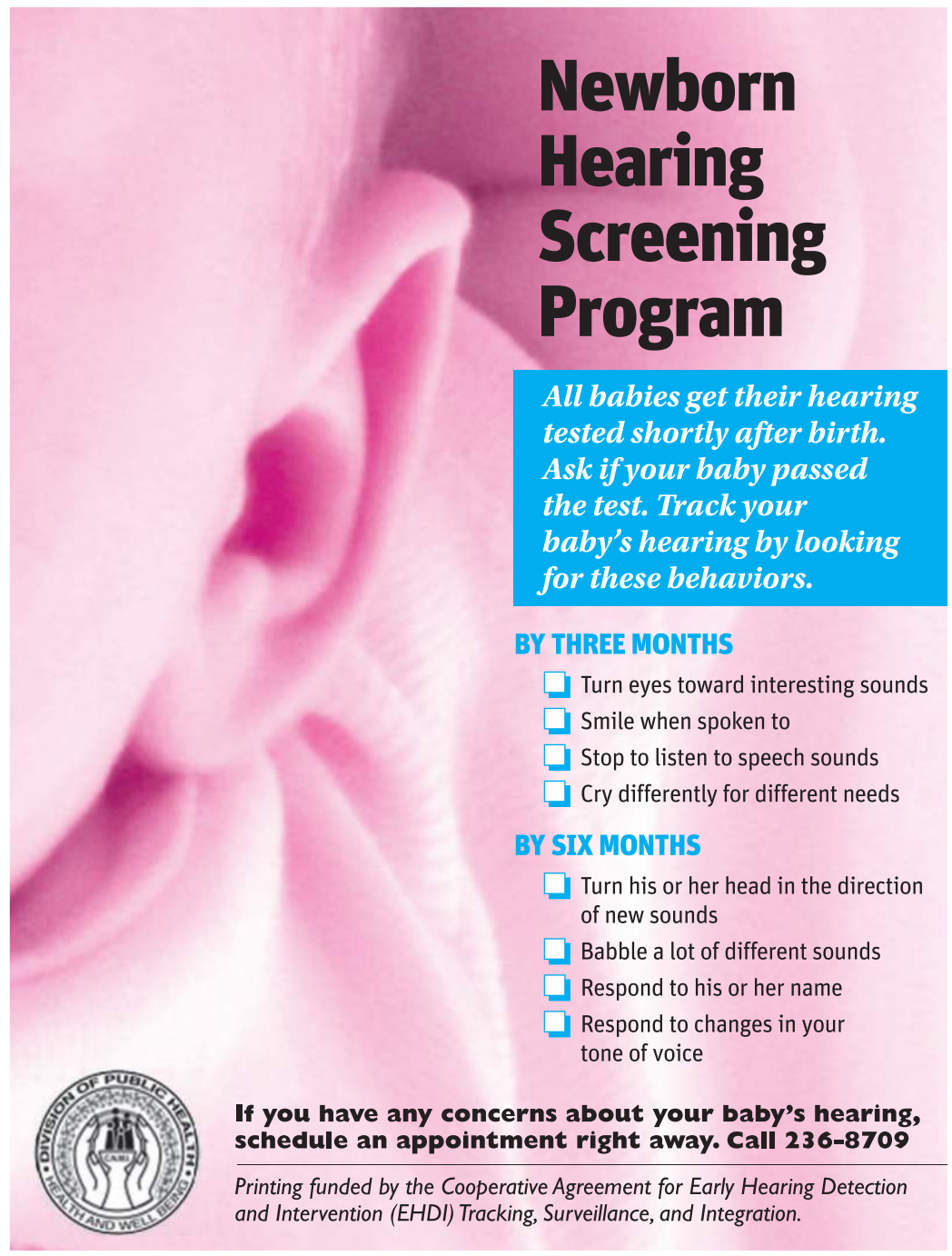
With the upcoming San Isidro Fiesta, Manglona said they will be holding the first ever Sweet Potato Festival on March 15 to 18 at the Metkaon Luta Ground in Sinapalo Village.

Manglona said the Women in Action will provide manpower for the festival which aims to promote Rota's most popular crop.

"We're inviting everyone to come to Rota for the Sweet Potato Festival and the San Isidro Fiesta," she said.

According to Manglona, the Women in Action is successful because all their members are united.

"We don't point fingers whenever we're not able to do anything. We don't point fingers. We look at the problem, we talk about it, we find a solution and then we move forward. That's how our organization works in Rota," she said.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Sablan wants COLA that rises with seniors' expenses

WASHINGTON, D.C.—CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan is working with members of Congress to ensure that when seniors' expenses rise their Social Security Cost of Living Adjustment rises too. In the last Congress Sablan co-sponsored the Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers Act. The bill required the U.S. Department of Labor to prepare a separate Consumer Price Index for those age 62 and over to use as the basis for their COLA. In the current Congress he is again supporting efforts to protect seniors from inflation.

"Our *man'amko* and retirees have special expenses, different than other consumers," said Sablan. "They have higher medical care and prescription drug costs in particular. And those costs are rising faster than the base rate of inflation.

"But the regular Consumer Price Index does not always capture changes in these special expenses. As a result, Social Security benefits are not keeping up with the real everyday cost of living that seniors face.

"I think we need to fix that flaw in the system, and make sure seniors on Social Security have a decent and respectable quality of life."

Over the last two years, Social Security benefits have not risen at all. In fact, Congress provided a one-time payment of $250 to recipients of Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, and veterans disability compensation or pension benefits to make up for the lost COLA in 2009.

A total of 2,570 people in the CNMI received a check to help them out; and the program pumped $642,420 into the Commonwealth economy.

Sablan had also co-sponsored the Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers Act to provide a more permanent fix but the bill did not pass. It would have required the U.S. Department of Labor to prepare a separate Consumer Price Index for those age 62 and over, who may have expenses that are not captured in the regular Consumer Price Index. The bill also required that the new CPIEC be used to compute cost-of-living increases for both Social Security and Medicare benefits.

"Getting the law changed is often a multi-year effort," Sablan explained. "So in this Congress we are working again to get a special measurement of cost of living for seniors."

This time the bill will be called the CPI for Seniors Act.

There are about 2,500 Social Security recipients in the Northern Mariana Islands and the number is growing. Some 1,500 are retirees, widows, and widowers, who are mostly elderly. The rest are disabled workers and children. Altogether, Social Security payments to these individuals exceed $15 million each year; and most of that money goes directly into the Northern Marianas economy. ***(PR)***

'Stand Down' grants aim to assist homeless vets

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service announced yesterday the availability of $600,000 in "Stand Down" grants that will provide an estimated 10,000 homeless veterans with opportunities to reintegrate into society. The grants are being awarded under the department's Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program.

"Stand Down events across the country will reach thousands of homeless veterans—including homeless female veterans—with opportunities to re-enter America's workforce," said Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis, who is also chair of the Interagency Council on Homelessness. "Through these grants, the federal government will engage states and local communities as active partners in readying those who have served our nation for civilian jobs."

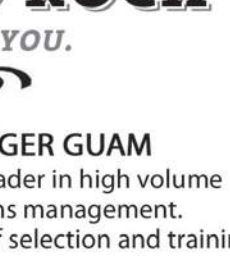
Stand Down is a military term referring to a brief respite from combat. Stand Down community events are held by local organizations that provide veterans with a wide range of social services such as food, clothing, shelter, housing and employment assistance. In 2010, more than 160 organizations across the country partnered with local businesses, government agencies, and community and faith-based service providers to hold 81 Stand Down events for homeless veterans and their families.

Stand Down grant funds must be used to enhance employment and training opportunities or to promote the self-sufficiency of homeless veterans through paid work. Homeless individuals do not always have access to the basic supplies necessary to maintain their health and self-confidence. In addition, a lack of shelter and related resources often limits the ability of people who are homeless to prepare for job interviews, make a positive impression on prospective employers or be contacted for follow-up. Basic services such as showers, haircuts, attention to health concerns and other collaborative services provided at Stand Down events can improve participants' chances of connecting with community-based service providers, and securing and maintaining employment.

Grantees operating within the Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program network will sponsor Stand Down events by coordinating their efforts with various local, state and federal service providers. Applications for Stand Down grants will be accepted from state workforce agencies, state and local workforce investment boards, veterans service organizations, local public agencies and nonprofit organizations, including community and faith-based organizations. For more information, contact Ken Fenner at Fenner.Kenneth@dol.gov or 202-693-4728. ***(USDOL)***

NMC names a new Student Services program manager

The Northern Marianas College recently named Rose Pangelinan as the new program manager for the Office of Student Activities and Leadership, OSAL, a program under the Student Services division.


Pangelinan

The Office of Student Activities and Leadership is dedicated to enriching the student learning experience by providing activities that develop leadership qualities, character, responsibility, positive work ethics, and teamwork. OSAL achieves this through the initiation of activities such as debates, forums, sporting events, and student workshops.

"We are delighted to welcome Rose back to NMC," said interim president Lorraine Cabrera. "Her background in the field of education will prove valuable to the activities initiated by OSAL."

An alumnus of NMC, Pangelinan obtained her associate's and bachelor's degrees at the college. As a student she was an active participant in the college's activities as she served as president of the Associated Students of NMC, the college's student governance body, and was an Honorary student regent. In addition, Pangelinan served as a chairperson for various subcommittees for the annual NMC Charter Day and as a volunteer for OSAL.

Before starting out as OSAL program manager, Pangelinan worked as an English tutor for Korean students studying at NMC before pursuing a career as a classroom teacher for various grade levels at the Dandan Elementary School.

"It's good to be back working at NMC," said Pangelinan. "My experience in designing and coordinating student activities and curriculums will help me in my position as program manager." ***(NMC)***

Congratulation to MVA for a very successful 6th Saipan Marathon

JTB group always supported Saipan Marathon, as part of CNMI toursim activities. This year, JTB sent 241 tourists, including 137 runners from all over Japan to participate in the Saipan Marathon.

From local JTB group of companies, 12 staff from both PMT and Tasi Tours joined the marathon. Also, 26 other staff worked at AMP starting point, other aid stations, and at the turnaround point.

JTB group of companies, including JTB Tokyo is willing to work harder to make next year's marathon more successful.

Congratulations to

Tamio Nishikido	**3:41:23**
Akira Shinohara	**4:42:30**
Reynaldo Rueda	**5:27:57**
Leo Wania	**6:55:50**
Yumiko Mizuno	**5:19:01**
Mai Takagi	**5:40:16**
Chie Fukumori	**5:40:16**
Taro Goto	**1:50:28**
Taro kubo	**2:05:12**
Danilo Gaza	**3:46:06**
Junjie Cui	**43:36:00**
Saihong Wang	**51:32:00**

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CHOW QUEEN BAKERY

Giving the island more bread choices for 6 years

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With the growing number of bakeries on Saipan, the bakery industry on the island is certainly thriving and among the more widely known and successful ones is Chow Queen Bakery.

Located along Beach Road across the Saipan Grand Hotel in Susupe, Chow Queen Bakery is celebrating its sixth year of providing islanders with an array of breads and pastries.

"At Chow Queen Bakery, we pride ourselves in having the most choices of breads for our customers," owner Ta Bun Kuy told *Saipan Tribune*.

Ta recounted why he decided to put up a bakery business on island. "People say a bakery makes profit," said Ta. "It's true. You make money when you have sold all your bread."

When it opened its doors on island, Chow Queen Bakery primarily offered some 30 different kinds of breads—including the tasty bread, Spanish bread, and *ensaymada munggo* or bean bread.

These days, customers can now choose from over 50 types and flavors, with recently introduced breads consisting of the Herb Vege, Pullman bread, macaroons, and bread with various fruit fillings such as blueberry, strawberry, and banana.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Chow Queen Bakery's affable and skilled team. From left, Wei Wang, baker; Jhon Pantaleon, delivery staff; Melvin Capalad, delivery staff; Lody Tangcoy, supervisor; Jojo Sevilla, chief baker; and Alex Tangcoy, bakery helper.

"We always try to come up with new kinds of bread. Our bread choices certainly differ from those of other bakeries since we use Hong Kong-style mixture recipe in making Filipino-style bread that everybody loves," said Ta.

Chow Queen Bakery's array of breads expanded as the bakery's clientele grew, mainly through word-of-mouth recommendations.

"We have regular customers from neighboring islands. They order from us by bulk to give to their families in Guam, even as far as the U.S. mainland," Ta said.

Chow Queen Bakery's goods—pan de coco, ube roll, pandesito, coco nuggets, and more—are available in various major retail stores, including Joeten stores, Payless Supermarket, 99 Cents, San Jose Market, Sunleader, Hannam Market, Kagman Market, and Twins Market, among others.

According to Ta, those who want freshly baked breads and pastries also have the option to buy Chow Queen Bakery products directly from their location in Susupe, which is open five times a week except Thursdays and Sundays.

"We do accommodate special orders so we open our bakery on our days off when the need arises," he noted.

Bakery supervisor Lody Tangcoy, who has been with Chow Queen Bakery since its inception, disclosed that their delicious bread are created under the careful supervision of veteran pastry chefs Jojo Sevilla and Wei Wang.

"Our bakers decide what kind of breads will be made for a day. Our menu changes constantly to suit our customers' demands," she said.

According to Tangcoy, their most sellable product is their whole wheat bread since it has been approved under the Woman Infant Child Program. "It's very good for those who are watching their diet or are health conscious," she said.

Ta, who is particularly fond of Chow Queen Bakery's own French bread, said the bakery's success story can also be attributed to their guaranteed use of fresh and high quality ingredients, their well-maintained hygiene in the bakery, prices that remain within everyone's reach, and their throng of loyal customers.

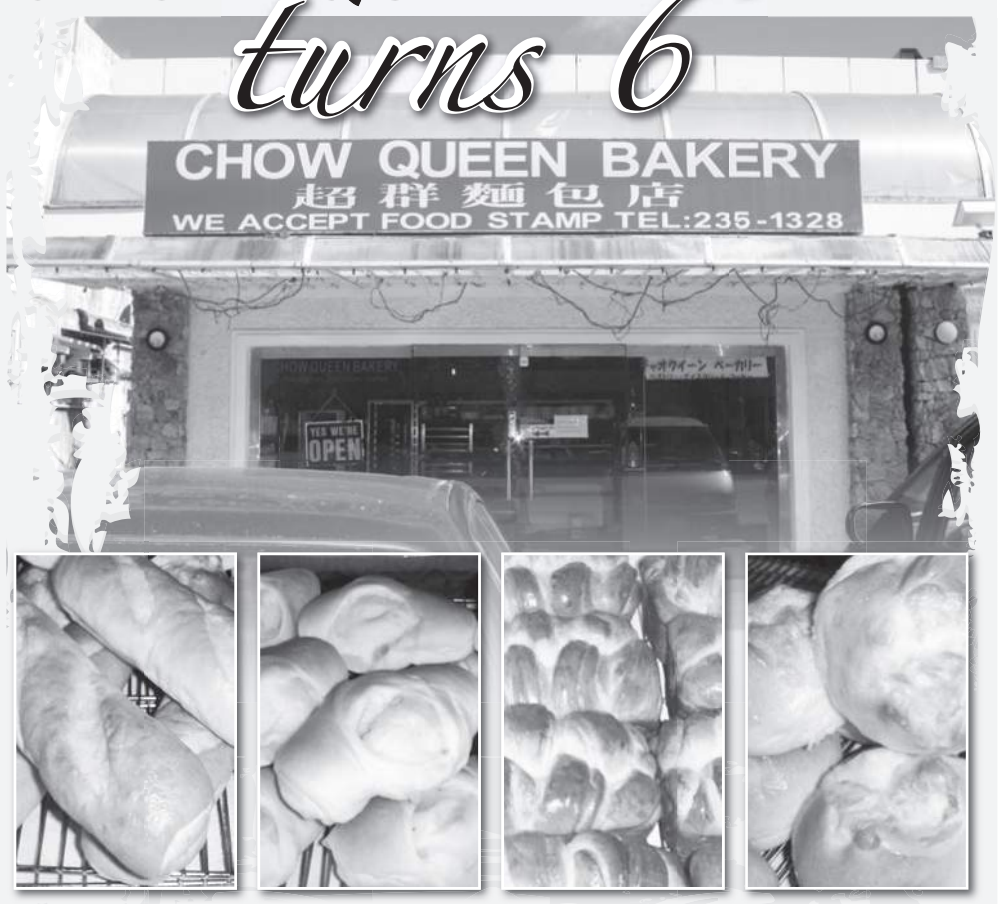
"We appreciate our fine customers for their patronage and support. For those who haven't tried Chow Queen Bakery products, try it to appreciate," Ta said.

Chow Queen Bakery, located across the Saipan Grand Hotel in Susupe, is open 8am to 4pm. For orders or more information, call 235-1328.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Celebrating its 6th year anniversary, Chow Queen Bakery is located across the Saipan Grand Hotel in Susupe.

CHOW QUEEN BAKERY
turns 6



We have the most variety of bread to choose from, looks good and taste good.

Across Saipan Grand Hotel • Tel.: 235-1328
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Open Mondays thru Wednesdays, Fridays to Saturdays only

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Sandwich to go
OPEN 24-HRS.

Weekdays Lunch Menu
$5.00
starting March 14, 2011

MONDAY
a. *"Chicken ala Kiey"* with cream sauce, Garlic Broccoli, Rice or Mashed Potato
b. *"Meat Loaf"* with mushroom sauce, Garlic Brocolli, Rice or Mashed Potato

TUESDAY
a. *"Pot Roast"* with pimiento sauce, Glazed Carrots, Rice or Mashed Potato
b. *"Grilled Pork"* with ginger sauce, Glazed Carrots, Rice or Mashed Potato

WEDNESDAY
a. *"Poached Mahi"* with coconut ginger sauce, Sautéed Eggplant, Rice or Red Rice
b. *"Assorted Tempura"*, Rice and Miso Soup

THURSDAY
a. *"Chicken & Pork Paella"* with Gazpacho
b. *"Steak Burrito"* with salsa and Refried beans

FRIDAY
a. *"Kadun Pika"*, boiled banana with coconut milk, Rice or Red Rice
b. *"Chammoro Bistek"*, Tempura and Plain Rice

Weekend Lunch Menu $6.00

SATURDAY
a. *"Spaghetti ala Carbonara"*, Garlic Bread and Soup of the day
b. *"Hawaiian Pizza"*, soup of the day

SUNDAY
10 kinds of *"Don Buni"* (Rice on Bowl with toppings)

Phone: 233-1388 / 78 / 68 (across Hyatt Hotel)

Sablan renews bid for equal treatment under grant program

WASHINGTON, DC—CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan introduced yesterday legislation that would treat the Northern Mariana Islands as a state under the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant program.

Byrne/JAG provided $376,988 of funding to the CNMI last year, but this is only one-third of what the Commonwealth would have received if it were funded as a state. Sablan's bill would correct that deficit, providing more operational money for law enforcement in the NMI.

"The Byrne grant program supports a wide variety of public safety projects. And the need is always greater than the available grant funds," Sablan said.

Presently, the Northern Marianas and American Samoa split a state minimum of Byrne funding. The CNMI gets a third; American Samoa gets two-thirds.

"This is just one more example of how the Northern Marianas got short-changed over the years without representation in Congress. Now we have to fix those inequities one program at a time," he said.

Under the bill Sablan introduced, both jurisdictions would get a full state minimum.

"Our Department of Public Safety desperately needs money for operations and equipment," explained Sablan. "This is a basic job of government, so it has to be one of key areas I work on."

In the past the Byrne/JAG money, which is allocated by the CNMI Criminal Justice Planning Agency, has helped DPS with crime scene investigation equipment, upgrades to facilities for storing and securing evidence, and emergency response equipment and supplies.

In addition to DPS, the Office of the Attorney General, the Judiciary, and the CNMI Board of Parole all benefit from the program.

In the last Congress, Sablan was able to get his bill through the House of Representatives. The Senate, however, failed to act on the measure.

This time around the bill already has 13 co-sponsors from both sides of the aisle, including Ted Poe (R-TX) and Jim Costa (D-CA), co-founders of the Congressional Victims Rights Caucus.

"As a member of the Victims Rights Caucus, I am particularly grateful to Ted Poe and Jim Costa for supporting my legislation," Sablan said. "We all recognize that the best way to help victims of crime is to make sure that crimes never occur and there are no victims. That's why we want to support the efforts of the law enforcement community and make sure they are as effective as possible to stopping crime before it happens." ***(PR)***

23 areas on Saipan now enjoy non-stop water service—CUC

» Limited service noted in 14 villages

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. announced yesterday that a total of 23 distribution areas on Saipan now enjoy 24-hour water service after the completion of several improvement projects.

Some 14 villages, meanwhile, have limited water supply, CUC said.

Areas getting non-stop water service include the As Matuis Homestead subdivision; San Roque, Achugao, Upper Tanapag areas; Agad areas on Isa Drive, Kagman intersection; Santa Lourdes; Lower As Teo, I Denni; Puerto Rico, Lower MIHA; Sadog Tasi, Puerto Rico; Lower Chalan Galaide; Upper Gualo Rai; Upper/lower Kannat Tabla; As Terlaje, Finasisu, Dandan, As Perdido; Chalan Piao, Chalan Kanoa, Susupe; San Vicente; Dandan subdivision; Koblerville homestead; San Antonio Afetnas; Kagman I, II, III; Upper Kagman to Kagman Mobile, Papago; Chalan Kiya; Obyan; Lower Base, As Mahetog, Tanapag; Koblerville homestead; and Koblerville MIHA, Turnkey Housing subdivision.

Areas with limited water supply include Capital Hill; Wireless Ridge, Talafofo, I Denni; Mt. Tapochao, Upper Chalan Galide; Western Garapan; Upper Navy Hill, Rapagao; Lower Navy Hill, Chinatown, Upper MIHA; Lower Gualo Rai; Chalan Kiya, Chalan Laulau; Oleai, Beach Road, Quartermaster, Gualo Rai, South Garapan; Upper San Vicente; South San Vicente; Chalan Tun Herman Pan; As Lito; and Upper Papago.

According to Mariano Iglecias, CUC manager for the water and wastewater division, there are four ongoing water projects on Saipan. Three of these projects are under the CNMI Water Task Force and one is under CUC.

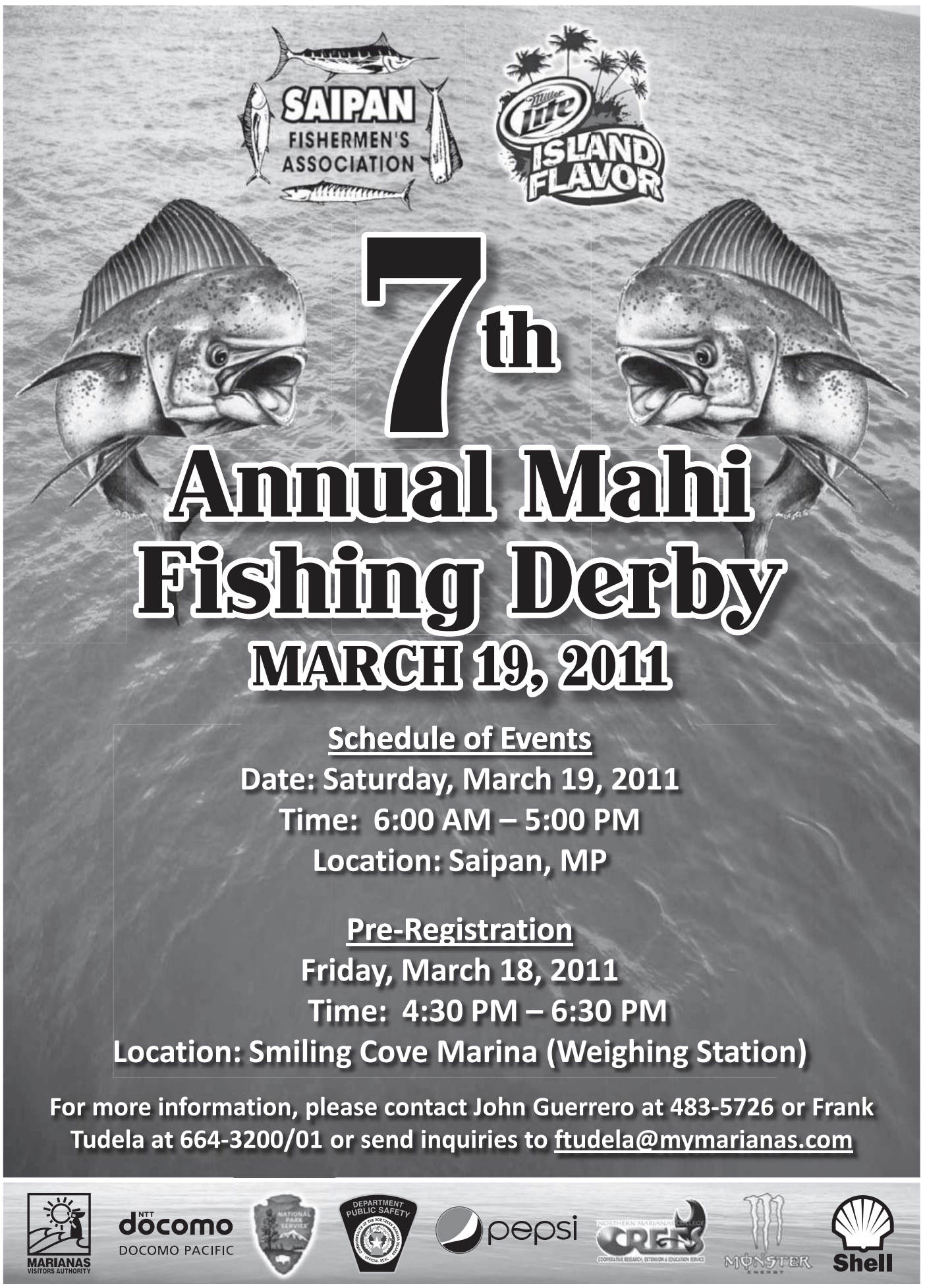
The projects are funded by various agencies such as the Department of the Interior, Department of Commerce, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; and Federal Emergency Management Agency.

In addition to ongoing water projects, Iglecias said CUC is also aggressively repairing leaks, locating and disconnecting illegal connections, metering all its customers, reviewing pump and motor specifications for optimal use, and implementing a leak detection program to identify leaks to minimize water losses and improve water delivery to its customers.

Residents are encouraged to practice strict water conservation and to teach children and household workers to save water as summer approaches.

Rainwater catchment systems/water tanks should be cleaned and float valves installed or replaced to ensure that water does not overflow from any tanks. CUC encourages the community to report leaks to the CUC Trouble Desk at 235-0282 or 235-2282.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Benigno Sablan and Fermin Castro of the CUC Water and Wastewater Division are seen repairing a leak on one of the water pipes leading to a residence in Fina Sisu.



Wanted: Ideas on how to revitalize La Fiesta Mall

Bridge Capital, LLC will be hosting a conceptual ideas contest on how to revitalize the defunct La Fiesta Mall in San Roque in a way that will make the CNMI a regional destination.

Called "The Rebirth of La Fiesta Mall," the competition aims to ascertain a sustainable concept and a buildable solution for La Fiesta Mall and to create architecture that will excite.

In a statement issued yesterday, Bridge Capital said the contest is open to all architects, engineers, designers, draftsmen and "dreamers in the CNMI.

"Bridge Capital is interested in possible ways to utilize La Fiesta Mall. The public is invited to submit their ideas of how to develop a mixed-use facility that will attract and sustain the tourism industry in the CNMI," the statement said.

Concepts shall include both interior and exterior renovation. Designers are encouraged to utilize the entire complex, incorporate sustainable ideas, and to think about the historical, contextual, social, and environmental aspects of La Fiesta Mall.

Each contestant will be required to submit a one-page narrative describing how the building will be revitalized. Floor plans, elevations, site plans, models, and renderings could be used to convey the intent.

There is no minimum or maximum for this content and the contestant is free to use appropriate media to convey their ideas. However, a CD/DVD containing digital copies of all content is required.

"Bridge Capital believes that sustainable tourism is an important key to reviving the economy of the CNMI, and that a revitalized mall can be an important element in increasing tourism, job creation, and overall economic growth," the statement said.

Bridge Capital says it is willing to spend up to $5 million to renovate the abandoned mall.

More details of the contest will be announced next week. ***(Bridge Capital)***

GLEE CLUB
Koblerville Elementary School's Glee Club members and club adviser Jay Jimeno have their picture taken before setting off for Guam to represent Saipan in the Tumon Bay Music Festival. The school's glee club performed last night at St. John's Chapel for the Tumon Bay Music Festival competition.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Emergency order allowing registered nurses to prescribe medication OK'd

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Board of Nurse Examiners has approved an emergency policy that authorizes advance practice registered nurses in the Commonwealth to prescribe medications covered by the Drug Enforcement Agency schedule II through V drugs, controlled substances, therapeutic devices, and other measures.

The emergency policy also allows these nurses to dispense drug consistent with their scope of specialty and practice.

The emergency order, adopted on Dec. 30, 2010 and now posted on the *Commonwealth Register*, applies only to advance practice registered nurses both in private and public clinics. These nurses will be allowed to continue to treat patients with proof of an active DEA license.

The order is valid through 2011 until such time the new approved rules and regulations are promulgated.

Under the existing APRN practice, prescribing and dispensing medication is allowed only within the context of a "written agreement" with a "supervising physician."

The board disclosed that due to shortage of physicians in the CNMI and other related quick turnover of physicians in the last 15 years, private clinics on Saipan may not always have a physician available for APRNs to have prescriptions with schedule II to III signed.

"This is inconvenient to patients and takes all providers away from continuing direct patient care," stated the board, citing the case at the Tinian Health Center where Aurelia Long, an APRN, is not allowed to do the task despite meeting several requirements and certifications.

The board said Tinian presently has about 15 to 20 DEA schedule II and II patients who have been on medications for some time now.

"This situation presents the prospect of grave harm to the public health, safety, and welfare of Tinian and to the patients of the Tinian Health Center. … The board's intention is to promulgate APRN regulations that would empower Mrs. Long, or all other APRN for that matter, to work autonomously and prescribe DEA-scheduled substances class II through V with an active DEA license in a separate jurisdiction," said the board in its order.

The board explained that while many nurse practitioners in various U.S. jurisdictions have schedule II through V prescription privileges, the BNE's old rules and regulations did not provide such authority.

APARTMENT AND CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

SPRING PROMOTION
UNTIL MARCH 31, 2011 (FOR 1 YEAR CONTRACT)

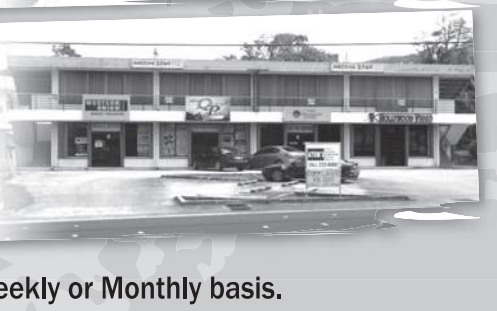
GILL BLAS CONDOMINIUM
Location : GARAPAN, SAIPAN
Landmark : Where 747 Dining & Bar is situated
Price : 1 BEDROOM - ~~$650.00~~ From $500.00~
: 2 BEDROOMS - ~~$850.00~~ From $650.00~
Features : Free Moving Service, Furnished Unit, Back-up Generator, Laundry Facility, On-Duty Security Guard at Night, Swimming Pool, 24 Hour Water Supply • Power and Water excluded

PASTEL INN APARTMENT
Location : SAN JOSE, SAIPAN
Landmark : Right besides Roshi's Store
Price : STUDIO TYPE - ~~$350.00~~ From $250.00~
: 2 BEDROOMS - ~~$550.00~~ From $400.00~
: OFFICE SPACE (928 SQ. FT.) - ~~$1,000.00~~ From $700.00~
Features : Free Moving Service, Furnished Unit, Back-up Generator, Laundry Facility, Broad parking space, Spacious yard, Swimming Pool, 24 Hour Water Supply • Power and Water excluded

SEDA BLANCA APARTMENT
Location : GARAPAN, SAIPAN
Landmark : Close to 747 Dining & Bar
Room type : STUDIO-TYPE, and 1 BEDROOM
Price : ~~$450.00~~ From $350.00~
Features : Free Moving Service, Furnished Unit, Back-up Generator, Laundry Facility, 24 Hour Water Supply
Power and Water excluded

ANAKS OCEAN VIEW HILL SAIPAN
Location : PUERTO RICO, SAIPAN
Landmark : Close to Bank of Hawaii
Room type : 2 BEDROOMS AND 3 BEDROOMS
Price : ~~$1,500.00~~ From $1,200.00~
Features : Free Moving Service, Furnished Unit, Back-up Generator, Laundry & Dryer, Swimming Pool & Tennis Court, 24 Hour Fresh Water Supply • Power and Water excluded

YOUNGS BUILDING
Location : MIDDLE ROAD, SAIPAN
Landmark : Where Pacific Quick Print is situated
Area : 760 SQ. FT. (2nd FLOOR ONLY)
Price : $500.00~
Features : Parking Lot, Power and Water excluded



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You can also contact us thru phone at 233-8880 or send us an e-mail at atoms@pticom.com

'Fisheries co-op could pave the way for new industry'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A commercial fisherman and experienced businessman maintains that the abundant marine resources of the CNMI can be potentially developed into a viable local fisheries industry with the establishment of a cooperative.

Russ Schow, who manages Charlie's Bar in Garapan, disclosed that the Saipan Fisherman's CO-OP Association is well under way of being formally established and it will be applying for a grant through the American Natives Association.

The three-year grant, which can amount up to $450,000, will be used to build a viable and highly sustainable local fisheries economy in the CNMI to provide more opportunities for people by exporting fish products to off-island markets.

Once approved, the grant will develop local fisheries by funding the training of local fishermen and eventually set up monitoring systems for fishing as well as establish maritime rules and regulations.

"The whole idea is that this community has nothing that it produces that goes off-island. It's not sustainable. The fisheries is the most viable economic solution to this problem. It's the only thing that they really have here," Schow told *Saipan Tribune.*

Schow, who moved to Saipan last year from Sitka, Alaska, also owns a marketing company in Seattle and has been fishing commercially across the Pacific.

"I have fished this area and all the way down to 200 miles north of New Guinea. And I've done a marketing analysis and survey concerning selling this seafood off island. The potential is tremendous!" he exclaimed.

Schow said the grant will help fund the training the local fishermen would need, including basic engineering, marine safety, on board drills, use of modern electronics, and modern fishing techniques "to improve their ability to catch fish."

If the CNMI wants to market its products to other countries, Schow said local fishermen must also be educated on the Hazardous Analysis and Critical Control Points Regulations like the proper handling of fish to meet the high standards of the international market.

"A lot of people here that catch fish don't follow these regulations set by the United States," he noted.

According to Schow, the establishment of a fishermen's co-op is significant since no group exists to unify and uphold the interests of local fishermen. He said there was once a co-op that had to close down due to financial constraints.

Schow disclosed that he has been meeting with one of the proponents of the defunct co-op to learn from their mistakes.

"It's always easier to learn from other people's mistakes than to make them on your own," he said.

Schow said the board of directors of the proposed co-op is composed of local fishermen who all support the development of CNMI fisheries.

"If we can get enough fishermen involved with it, then we become one voice with the government which gives us a more political and community power to be able to build this into something that's viable," he added.

With his marketing background, Schow said he already has a number of potential markets across the United States who have expressed interest in purchasing the abundant fish and fish products of the Commonwealth.

"We want to get people to look forward and see our huge potential in this viable industry," said Schow.

Schow urged all local fishermen and other interested community members to join the meeting on Tuesday, 6pm at the Charlie's Bar across from Sunleader in Garapan and discuss the co-op and the grant application.

For information, contact Schow at 989-2939 or email russ.sc59@gmail.com.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

PUBLIC NOTICE OF
PROPOSED INCREASE OF ELECTRIC BASE RATES AND POSTPONEMENT OF PUBLIC HEARING
FROM MARCH 18, 2011 AT 10:00 A.M. TO APRIL 11, 2011 AT 10:00 A.M.

The CNMI Public Utilities Commission (Commission) regulates the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC). The Commission required CUC to file a rate case in November, 2010. In this filing, CUC requested a change to its electric base rates.

Accordingly, on November 10, 2010, CUC filed a petition with the Commission to raise its electric base rates, under Docket 09-1. On December 8, 2010, and February 9, 2011, CUC filed supplemental materials, and on March 9, 2011, CUC filed an amended petition with supplemental materials. Originally, the Public Hearing date was set for March 18, 2011, at 10:00 A.M. That date was postponed. **The date now set for the Public Hearing is April 11, 2011, at 10:00 A.M.**

CUC's rate increase request is primarily due to reasons that are beyond CUC's control. CUC is required by CNMI law and the Stipulated Orders, entered in *United States v. CUC and CNMI,* 08-0051 (D.N.M.I.), to achieve "full cost recovery." This means that CUC's revenues must fully cover the cost of providing service to its ratepayers. This includes all costs of production, operation, and maintenance required to provide electric, water and sewer services to consumers. The rate increases CUC asks for are critical in order for it to attain financial health and comply with CNMI law and the Stipulated Orders.

In its amended petition, CUC requested that the Commission adopt an increase to its electric base rates, **to become effective May 11, 2011**. The proposed electric base rate increases are as follows:

CPUC DOCKET 09-1
COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
PROPOSED ELECTRIC BASE RATE DESIGN

		E.1 Residential	E.2 Commercial	E.3 Government
CURRENT ELECTRIC RATES – BASE CHARGE				
Monthly Customer Charge		$ 5.60	$ 7.67	$ 7.67
Per kWh:				
-	500	0.0160	0.0860	0.0910
501	1,000	0.0660	0.0860	0.0910
1,001	2,000	0.0860	0.0860	0.0910
2,001	Above	0.1270	0.0860	0.0910
PROPOSED ELECTRIC RATES – BASE CHARGE				
Monthly Customer Charge		$ 8.06	$ 11.04	$ 11.04
Per KWh:				
-	500	0.0230	0.1240	0.1310
501	1,000	0.0950	0.1240	0.1310
1,001	2,000	0.1240	0.1240	0.1310
2,001	Above	0.1830	0.1240	0.1310

CUC notes that the average residential ratepayer uses approximately 500 kWh per month. The proposed rate adjustment will increase the average residential ratepayer's monthly electric bill by approximately $5.96. For the lowest users, those customers who use approximately 250 kWh per month, the proposed rate increase will be $4.21. Higher volume residential and commercial users will experience greater increases.

The Commission will conduct a public hearing on Monday, April 11, 2011, at 10:00 A.M., at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce conference room, located in the Family Building, Garapan Street, Saipan, to receive evidence, argument, discussion and public comment on the above regulatory matter. The Commission will also be considering a petition on behalf of Independent Power Producer Telesource, as well as the next Levelized Energy Adjustment Clause ("LEAC").

After the public hearing, the Commission may conduct a special business meeting to consider and make decisions regarding matters considered at the public hearing.

A set of the CUC rate case petitions, and the written testimony and the exhibits, is available for download from the internet as follows:

1. Open Internet Explorer.
2. Type ftp.economists.com. Do not type "http://" or anything else, just ftp.economists.com.
3. Click on "Page" -- upper right corner of Internet Explorer window.
4. Click on "Open FTP Site in Windows Explorer".
5. An entry window will pop up. Enter user name: "Cucftp"; and password: "Cucsaipan1". Both are case-sensitive.

A written copy of all petition materials will also be available for inspection at the following places: CUC Admin Office: 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building; CUC Tinian Office; CUC Rota Office.

ON PSS NETWORK DESIGN PROJECT

Firm to elevate protest to OPA; another protester pushes for 'internal' resolution

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two companies that lost out on the bid for the Public School System's network design project are not giving up, vowing to continue to appeal their cases.

Roy Ortizo, manager and owner of Marianas Wireless, disclosed yesterday that he will elevate his complaint to the Office of Public Auditor after Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan denied his bid protest and reaffirmed the PSS procurement officer's decision to award the contract to another company.

Megabyte president Brian Clayton, meanwhile, said he will continue to appeal to PSS so the matter could be solved internally. Clayton declined yesterday to comment further until after his "conversation" with PSS.

Sablan had denied both protests last week, indicating that PSS procurement officer Robert Florian made the correct decision in his selection of off-island based Pacific Star Communications to do the network design and installation project for public schools.

Ortizo and Clayton separately filed their protests with PSS last month, labeling the transaction as improper and accusing Florian of employing favoritism and bias.

The losing proposers took particular exception to PacStar not having a CNMI business license at the time of its bid submission and its failure to pay NMI gross receipts tax, among other allegations.

Sablan, however, pointed out that a bidder or proposer is not required under both CNMI and PSS procurement laws to have a business license in order to submit a bid or proposal. They are only required to get one before being allowed to sign and begin performance under a contract.

Marianas Wireless and Megabyte also insisted that PacStar should have not been allowed to participate in the bidding for the project's scope of work which it had designed, but Sablan said there is no specific regulation in the CNMI that addresses this issue.

Other allegations were also denied by the commissioner.

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Last Command Post burglary

Crime Stoppers is seeking the community's assistance for information on a burglary and theft incident that occurred at the Last Command Post in Marpi.

On Monday, Feb. 14, 2011, at about 5:20pm, a female parked her car (a white 1994 Toyota Corolla) at the Last Command Post to go running. About an hour and a half later, she returned and drove her car to a restaurant in Garapan. Upon arrival, she opened her trunk to discover her bag and personal items missing. She checked her car and realized the passenger door was unlocked, and the rear passenger window broken.

The victim realized her car was burglarized while it was parked at the Last Command Post. The items stolen include an Acer laptop worth $800, a black Nokia cell phone, a black Droid Eric cell phone, a brown Maui Jim sunglass, a white Nano iPod, and a wallet containing ID's and credit cards, along with some clothes.

DPS and Crime Stoppers are seeking help from the public. Contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use their website at www.nmicrimestoppers.com. Crime stoppers pays up to $1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. ***(DPS)***

Business

Oil installations ablaze in Libya as battles rage

RAS LANOUF, Libya (AP)—A giant yellow fireball shot into the sky, trailed by thick plumes of black smoke Wednesday after fighting between rebels and forces loyal to Moammar Gadhafi set two oil installations ablaze and inflicted yet more damage on Libya's crippled energy industry.

In the west, Gadhafi claimed victory in recapturing Zawiya, the city closest to the capital that had fallen into opposition hands. The claim could not immediately be verified; phone lines there have not been working during a deadly, six-day siege.

State TV showed a crowd of hundreds, purportedly in Zawiya's main square, shouting "The people want Colonel Gadhafi!" but the location of the rally could not be independently confirmed.

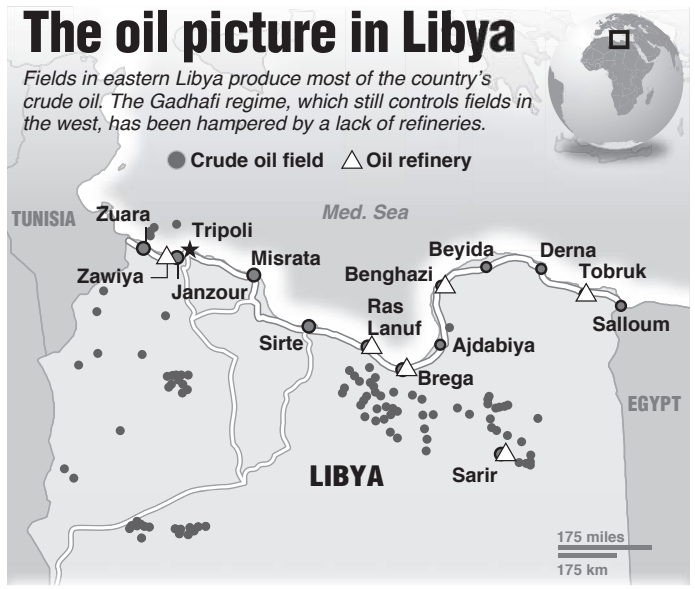
Western journalists based in Tripoli were taken late Wednesday to a stadium on the outskirts of Zawiya that was filled with Gadhafi loyalists waving green flags in a similar scene, complete with fireworks. Libyan TV cameras filmed the celebrations as food, drinks and cooking oil were distributed.

Government escorts refused journalists' requests to visit the city's main square.

The fall of Zawiya to anti-Gadhafi residents early on in the uprising that began Feb. 15 illustrated the initial, blazing progress of the opposition. But Gadhafi has seized the momentum, battering the rebels with airstrikes and artillery fire and repulsing their westward march toward the capital, Tripoli.

Gadhafi's successes have left Western powers struggling to come up with a plan to support the rebels without becoming ensnared in the complex and fast-moving conflict. On Wednesday, a high-ranking member of the Libyan military flew to Cairo with a message for Egyptian army officials from Gadhafi, but no further details were known.

President Barack Obama's national security team weighed how to force Gadhafi from power and halt his crackdown on rebels, but the White House said no action was imminent and set no timeline as attention shifted to a pivotal NATO session in Brussels.



Senate rejects rival GOP, Democratic budget bills

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Democratic-led Senate on Wednesday emphatically rejected a budget-slashing House spending bill as too draconian. It then immediately killed a rival Democratic plan that was derided by moderate Democrats as too timid in its drive to cut day-to-day agency budgets.

The votes to scuttle the competing measures were designed, ironically, to prompt progress. The idea was to show tea party-backed GOP conservatives in the House that they need to pare back their budget-cutting ambitions while at the same time demonstrating to Democratic liberals that they need to budge, too.

White House budget director Jacob Lew said the votes should turn a page and that talks between the administration and Republicans are likely to become more productive. The negotiators are unlikely to meet a March 18 deadline, which means another stopgap budget extension would be required to keep the government from shutting down.

"We want to come to a reasonable outcome," Lew said in an interview. "We've made it clear that that's not the end, that there are more savings. But we've also said that there's a line beyond which we can't go."

Top Senate Democrats visited with Obama on Wednesday afternoon to plot strategy. Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., a participant, declined to comment afterward, other than to say he recognizes his party will have to move in the GOP's direction.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Exxon CEO says oil prices not yet hurting economy

NEW YORK (AP)—Exxon Mobil CEO Rex Tillerson said Wednesday he doesn't think the recent jump in oil prices is hurting the U.S. economy—at least, not yet. The head of the world's largest publicly traded oil company said that in 2008, when oil surged to near $150 per barrel, Americans didn't change their driving and spending habits until gasoline prices topped $4 per gallon. Average gas prices peaked at $4.11 in July that year. "I don't know if that tip-over is still at the same $4 level or not," Tillerson told reporters at the New York Stock Exchange. "We'll see."

FDA approves first new drug for lupus in 56 years

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Food and Drug Administration on Wednesday approved the first new drug to treat lupus in over 50 years, a milestone that medical experts say could prompt development of other drugs that are even more effective in treating the debilitating immune system disorder. Known as Benlysta, the injectable drug is designed to relieve flare-ups and pain caused by lupus, a little-understood and potentially fatal ailment in which the body attacks its own tissue and organs. Biotech drugmaker Human Genome Sciences Inc. spent 15 years developing Benlysta and will co-market it with GlaxoSmithKline PLC.

Bank of Korea hikes key interest rate to 3 percent

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's central bank raised its key interest rate for the second time in three months Thursday as it tries to control rising inflation. The Bank of Korea announced that it had lifted the benchmark base rate to 3 percent from 2.75 percent at a monthly meeting. The rate influences a variety of borrowing costs, including those on overnight loans between financial institutions and more broadly on items such as mortgage and credit card debt. The decision came after South Korea's consumer price index jumped in February to its highest level in more than two years and remained outside the central bank's inflation comfort zone for a second straight month.

World's richest are almost $1 trillion richer

The global ranks of billionaires grew by 199 people in the past year, but none came close to unseating Carlos Slim, the world's richest man, who added $20.5 billion to his coffers, according to Forbes magazine's annual tally.

The number of people on Forbes' list climbed to 1,210 billionaires, setting a record with combined wealth of $4.5 trillion, up from $3.6 trillion a year ago. While the biggest slice of that wealth, $1.5 trillion, is controlled by people in the U.S., the publication said more than half of the new billionaires came from Brazil, Russia, India and China. In China, there are now 115 billionaires; the richest among them is Robin Li, who is worth $9 billion.

At the top of the list for the second year in a row is Mexican telecom magnate Slim, whose fortune climbed to $74 billion on strength in the Mexican stock market, a stronger peso and successful business spinoffs, Forbes said. The majority of his net worth comes from his holdings in America Movil, Latin America's largest phone service provider.

No. 2 on the list is Bill Gates, the co-founder of Microsoft Corp. and now a fulltime philanthropist, who has a net worth of $56 billion. Forbes noted that Gates, once the world's wealthiest man, has given $30 billion to The Gates Foundation.

The rebound in the stock market helped investor Warren Buffett's wealth increase to $50 billion. The return of people's appetite for luxury goods pushed LVMH CEO Bernard Arnault up to No. 4 on the list from No. 7, with a net worth of $41 billion.

While there was some jostling for position, the makeup of the top 10 on Forbes' list was almost unchanged. Christy Walton, whose father-in-law Sam Walton and his brother founded Wal-Mart Stores Inc., displaced Germany's Karl Albrecht as No. 10. Walton, one of 102 women on the list this year, saw her net worth climb to $26 billion.

Albrecht, who owns a discount supermarket company called Aldi Sud, saw his wealth increase to $25.5 billion, putting him at No. 12.

Mark Zuckerberg, CEO of the popular social networking site Facebook, had the fastest-growing net worth, Forbes said—it more than tripled to $13.5 billion, earning him the No. 52 spot on the list.

FRUSTRATED CARGO RESERVE AUCTION

26 UNITS AIRCONDITIONER
Brand: Liebert/InteleCool/2-5 Ton/50 & 60 Hz.
Type: Indoor/Outdoor Standing A/C Unit

Auction Date: March 12, 2011@10am
SSC Terminal Warehouse

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SAIPAN STEVEDORE COMPANY, INC.
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Robert Tenorio Torres
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Plata Drive, Whispering
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P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff, vs.	Civil Action No. 09-0026-CV
ESTATE OF LUIS H. MANGLONA through its Administratrix Marcie M. Tomokane, Defendant.	NOTICE OF SALE
IN THE MATTER OF:	Civil Action No. 07-0375-D
THE ESTATE OF LUIS H. MANGLONA, Deceased.	NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a Judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 3rd day of February, 2011, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, a copy of which has been delivered to its Administratrix and heir directing the sale of the premises hereinafter described, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendant, as prescribed in the judgment, the undersigned counsel will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the 7th day of April, 2011 at 10 a.m., at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said Judgment, to wit:

Tract No. 22128, located in Ginalangan, Rota, containing an area of 25,000 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Survey Plat No. 2066/79 dated December 20, 1984.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c) To reject any and all bids.

2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, PO Box 503758 CK, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749.

3. Deposit and Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to the Bank of Guam.

4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and the Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 28th day of February, 2011.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Nation

Wis. GOP bypasses Dems, cuts collective bargaining

MADISON, Wis. (AP)—The Wisconsin Senate succeeded in voting Wednesday to strip nearly all collective bargaining rights from public workers, after Republicans outmaneuvered the chamber's missing Democrats and approved an explosive proposal that has rocked the state and unions nationwide.

"You are cowards!" spectators in the Senate gallery screamed as lawmakers voted. Within hours, a crowd of a few hundred protesters inside the Capitol had grown to several thousand, more than had been in the building at any point during weeks of protests.

"The whole world is watching!" they shouted as they pressed up against the heavily guarded entrance to the Senate chamber.

All 14 Senate Democrats fled to Illinois nearly three weeks ago, preventing the chamber from having enough members present to consider Gov. Scott Walker's "budget-repair bill"—a proposal introduced to plug a $137 million budget shortfall.

The Senate requires a quorum to take up any measures that spends money. But Republicans on Wednesday took all the spending measures out of the legislation and a special committee of lawmakers from both the Senate and Assembly approved the revised bill a short time later.

The unexpected yet surprisingly simple procedural move ended a stalemate that had threatened to drag on indefinitely. Until Wednesday's stunning vote, it appeared the standoff would persist until Democrats returned to Madison from their self-imposed exile.

AP

Opponents to the governor's bill to eliminate collective bargaining rights for many state workers have retaken over the state Capitol in Madison, Wis., Wednesday, March 9, 2011.

"In 30 minutes, 18 state senators undid 50 years of civil rights in Wisconsin. Their disrespect for the people of Wisconsin and their rights is an outrage that will never be forgotten," said Democratic Senate Minority Leader Mark Miller. "Tonight, 18 Senate Republicans conspired to take government away from the people."

The state Assembly previously approved the original proposal and was set to consider the new measure on Thursday. Miller said in an interview with The Associated Press there is nothing Democrats can do now to stop the bill: "It's a done deal."

The lone Democrat present on the special committee, Assembly Minority Leader Peter Barca, shouted that the meeting was a violation of the state's open meetings law. The Senate's chief clerk said hours later the meeting was properly held.

Senate convened within minutes of the committee meeting and passed the measure 18-1 without discussion or debate. Republican Sen. Dale Schultz cast the lone no vote.

"The jig is now up," Barca said. "The fraud on the people of Wisconsin is now clear."

Walker had repeatedly argued that collective bargaining was a budget issue, because his proposed changes would give local governments the flexibility to confront budget cuts needed to close the state's $3.6 billion deficit. He has said that without the changes, he may have needed to lay off 1,500 state workers and make other cuts to balance the budget.

Walker said Wednesday night that Democrats had three weeks to debate the bill and were offered repeated opportunities to come back, but refused.

"I applaud the Legislature's action today to stand up to the status quo and take a step in the right direction to balance the budget and reform government," Walker said in the statement.

The measure approved Wednesday forbids most government workers from collectively bargaining for wage increases beyond the rate of inflation. It also requires public workers to pay more toward their pensions and double their health insurance contribution, a combination equivalent to an 8 percent pay cut for the average worker.

Tucson shooting survivors attend Loughner hearing

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)—Survivors of the Tucson shooting rampage came face-to-face with the suspect Wednesday for the first time since they were shot at a voter event hosted by Rep. Gabrielle Giffords two months ago.

At least three victims attended Jared Lee Loughner's court hearing, creating a tense showdown as the smiling suspect entered the room in handcuffs. Susan Hileman stared at Loughner intently from a wheelchair, and placed her hands to her face as he walked into the room.

Two other survivors—retired Army Col. Bill Badger and Mavanell "Mavy" Stoddard—attended the hearing and sat on the opposite side of the courtroom as the 22-year-old Loughner, whose once-shaved head featured short, dark hair and sideburns. Two U.S. marshals stood just feet behind Loughner throughout the hearing.

The suspect's father, Randy Loughner, also made his first appearance in the gallery during his son's criminal case. Dressed in a pressed charcoal-colored shirt and blue jeans, the father with bushy salt-and-pepper hair sat three rows behind his son, his arms folded.

Randy Loughner kept his eyes fixed on the floor and wall, glancing up only a few times to see the court action. After the hearing, he rushed out of the courtroom without acknowledging reporters asking him for comment.

Loughner made one brief comment, at the beginning of the hearing. The judge asked the 22-year-old if Jared Loughner was his name. "Yes, it is," Loughner responded as he stood behind the defense table.

AP

Attorney Judy Clark and defendant Jared Loughner stand before the judge in federal court Wednesday, March 9, 2011 in Tucson, Ariz. as shown in this artists' rendering.

Officials: No-fly zone may have limited impact

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama's top national security aides emerged from private talks Wednesday with a growing sense that imposing a no-fly zone over Libya would have a "limited impact" on halting the kind of violence raging in the North African nation, senior administration officials said.

That position, sure to shape the international debate about potential military intervention in Libya, came as Obama's principal security aides reviewed potential recommendations for the president during a White House Situation Room meeting.

The officials underscored that the creation of a no-fly zone over Libyan airspace was not off the table from the U.S. perspective if the facts on the ground change, chiefly Moammar Gadhafi's use of air power to attack the rebels threatening his grip on power.

The administration maintains that planning for such intervention should continue, particularly at a pivotal NATO meeting in Brussels of defense chiefs on Thursday, and that the no-fly zone also remains in consideration as a way to increase pressure on Gadhafi.

Yet for now, the no-fly zone option is not seen as having high impact in ending the violence, said the officials, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the private strategy discussions.

The officials familiar with the meeting would not elaborate.

But other officials have noted that the no-fly zone tactic may be ineffective in part because Gadhafi appears to be using his planes sparingly in his crackdown on rebels. Military experts say the use of jets by Gadhafi loyalists poses less of a threat than the deployment of attack helicopters, which can get around flight prohibitions because they are harder to detect.

Even before Wednesday's talks, the Obama administration has had little enthusiasm for military intervention in Libya or for the no-fly zone in particular. Defense Secretary Robert Gates has said that beginning the flights would require an assault on Libyan air defenses, a step tantamount to war. And Obama officials have consistently warned of the costs and the risks.

In order to ground the Libyan air force—thereby providing air cover for the rebels—U.S. and partner aircraft would first attack Libya's anti-aircraft defenses. Freed of the threat of being shot down, U.S. and partner planes could then patrol Libya's air space and down any planes that got airborne.

The prospect of a no-fly zone has come to dominate attention even as the White House has consistently held that it is just one option that could be used to try to protect civilians and pressuring Gadhafi to give up power. Obama says he will not be "hamstrung" by ruling out options but has never publicly given it the attention in this crisis that other world leaders have.

ACROSS THE NATION

Severe weather flips cars, rips roofs in Southeast

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP)—A severe weather system that trudged across the Southeast Wednesday tore roofs off buildings, overturned cars and caused a house fire that killed a woman. Two apparent tornadoes damaged buildings and caused minor injuries near Mobile in southwest Alabama, hours after several tornadoes were reported to the west in Louisiana. A woman died in a house fire in Mississippi that authorities believe was caused by lightning. Alabama and Louisiana's governors declared states of emergency, which allows them to request federal help in responding to the storms.

US charges 10 in Mexican triple-homicide last year

WASHINGTON (AP)—Ten members and associates of a Southwest border gang have been charged in the United States in the murders a year ago of a U.S. consulate employee, her husband and another man in Juarez, Mexico. A grand jury indictment unsealed Wednesday in El Paso, Texas, revealed federal charges against 35 people in all, allegedly linked to the Barrio Azteca gang, including the 10 charged in the murders. The indictment details a criminal enterprise that began in the late 1980s as a violent prison gang, which then expanded into a group of murderers and drug traffickers who operate on both sides of U.S.-Mexico border.

Flight 93 families seek money for 9/11 memorial

WASHINGTON (AP)—Families of those who died on United Airlines Flight 93 said Wednesday they hope Congress won't forget the heroism displayed aboard the hijacked flight as it considers giving more federal money for a 9/11 memorial at the crash site in Pennsylvania. Family members said they're reminding lawmakers that if not for the heroic actions of those on the plane, members of Congress could have been among the victims on Sept. 11, 2001. "So many times they forget they were the target and that these heroes we are trying to memorialize helped them live another day," said Calvin Wilson of Herndon, Va., a construction company project manager whose brother-in-law, LeRoy Homer Jr., was first officer on the flight.

Asia

China vows no Western-style political reforms

BEIJING (AP)—China will never adopt multiparty democracy or other Western-style political reforms that could challenge the Communist Party's grip on power, the head of the country's national legislature said Thursday.

Wu Bangguo's comments were the latest emphatic rejection of any major political changes to accompany soaring economic growth, rising urbanization and an increasingly diversified society.

Instead, Wu repeatedly emphasized in his address to the annual session of the National People's Congress the need to shore up party leadership and for government bodies to follow the party's directives in all areas.

"On the basis of China's conditions, we have made a solemn declaration that we will not employ a system of multiple parties holding office in rotation," Wu told the nearly 3,000 delegates.

Wu ruled out separating powers between the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government, adoption of a federal system, and said the division of parliament into upper and lower houses would also not be considered. China would not carry out formal privatization or "diversify our guiding thought," he said.

He said while China wanted to strengthen its legal system, it would "never blindly follow or imitate others."

"Different countries have different systems of laws, and we do not copy the systems of laws of certain Western countries when enacting the socialist system of laws with Chinese characteristics," Wu said.

Wu's comments were a faint echo of ones he made 2009 in which he repeatedly blasted Western-style democracy and forcefully asserted China's rejection of such concepts.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Dalai Lama says he'll give up political role

DHARMSALA, India (AP)—The Dalai Lama said Thursday that he will give up his political role in Tibet's government-in-exile, shifting that power to an elected representative. The Tibetan spiritual leader, speaking on the anniversary of the 1959 Tibetan uprising against Chinese control, said the time has come "to devolve my formal authority to the elected leader." He has long insisted that he wants the exile government, based in this Indian hill town, to have more power. But the Thursday speech gave a formal timeframe to that transition, saying he would soon be proposing amendments to the exile constitution to bring about the changes. The exile parliament is scheduled to begin its next session later this month.

Suicide bomber kills 36 at funeral in NW Pakistan

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—A suicide bomber struck a funeral attended by anti-Taliban militiamen in northwestern Pakistan on Wednesday, killing at least 36 mourners and wounding more than 100 in the deadliest militant attack in the country this year. The Pakistani Taliban claimed responsibility. The blast near the city of Peshawar was not far from the tribally administered regions bordering Afghanistan where militants are at their strongest. The area struck is home to several tribal armies that battle the Pakistani branches of the Taliban with the government's encouragement. Police officer Zahid Khan said about 300 people were attending the funeral for the wife of a militiaman in the Matani area when the bomber struck. TV footage showed men picking up bloodied sandals and caps from a dusty, open space where mourners had gathered.

PH on alert amid infighting among rebels

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine troops have been put on alert after a radical commander opposed to peace talks threatened to break away from the country's largest Muslim rebel group, an official said Wednesday. Amid differences with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front's main guerrilla force, Ameril Umbra Kato formed his own group of about 1,000 fighters a few months ago, but remains within the larger rebel group. He has opposed Malaysian-brokered talks with Manila, saying the negotiations have gone nowhere, chief rebel negotiator Mohagher Iqbal said. Emissaries from the main rebel group have been sent to persuade Kato not to break off from them. Kato's followers, who include about 100 armed men, have been joined by dozens of fleeing militiamen from a once-powerful clan accused of a 2009 massacre, but they have not committed any violence to sabotage the talks, Iqbal told The Associated Press.

Senior US diplomat replaced over Okinawa uproar

TOKYO (AP)—A senior U.S. diplomat supervising Japan affairs has been replaced for disparaging comments that angered many on a southern Japan island where U.S. troops are based, the U.S. Embassy said Thursday.

Keven Maher has been replaced by Rust Deming, the deputy chief of mission in Tokyo, as director of the State Department's Office of Japan Affairs, the embassy said in a statement.

Maher caused an uproar by reportedly saying Okinawans were lazy and used their hosting of U.S. bases to extort benefits from Tokyo.

Okinawa hosts tens of thousands of U.S. Marines and other troops, more than any other part of Japan. Okinawans have often complained that they bear too much of the burden for Japan's security alliance with Washington.

The issue is particularly sensitive now because Tokyo and Washington are negiotiating a plan to move about 8,000 Marines to the U.S. territory of Guam. To do so, they are also planning to relocate a Marine base on Okinawa to a less crowded part of the island, but many Okinawans oppose that option.

The embassy statement said visiting Assistant Secretary Kurt Campbell has conveyed to the Japanese government his deep regrets over the comments made in December. Campbell said the U.S. has "the utmost respect for the Okinawan people."

Campbell was also quoted as saying Deming is a "strong friend of Japan."

Under their mutual security pact, about 50,000 U.S. troops are stationed in Japan.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BID
CUC-IFB-11-027

REHABILITATION OF SEWER LIFT STATION NOS. S-2 & S-8

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the rehabilitation and upgrade of Sewer Lift Stations and installation of Force-Main in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists, in general of the rehabilitation and upgrade of Two (2) Sewer Lift Stations and the installation approximately 1,300 foot of force-main. The work shall be done not to disrupt the daily operation of the sewer discharge. The work is inclusive of rehabilitation of the wet well, replacement of pumps, guide rails, control panel cleanup of the basins, repair, replacement, rehabilitation of pipeline, pipes, replacement of generator, asphalt paving, etc. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **180 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The Bid Package and Scope-of-Work may be picked-up, upon receipt of a deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, in the amount of $ 100.00 (nonrefundable) for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit will be held on **March 28, 2011 at 9:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Seven (7) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-11-027, **Rehabilitation of Sewer Lift Station Nos. S-2 & S-8"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 14, 2011**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 30 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of *one hundred (100%) percent* of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of *one hundred (100%) percent* of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code. Please refer to other bidding requirements described in Document 00200 - Instructions to Bidders.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 7, 2011** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email - msablan@cucgov.net with a copy to Commander, Robert Lorenz, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email robert_lorenz@cucgov.net and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant - mika_muna@cucgov.net.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC
Proposed Amendments to the Saipan Zoning Law and Official Zoning Maps

The Zoning Board has extended the deadline to receive your comments on a number of proposed amendments to the Saipan Zoning Law of 2008 and the accompanying Official Zoning Maps. Please join any of the following presentations to gain more understanding of the changes and let us know your comments before April 12, 2011.

PRESENTATIONS:

Wednesday, March 16, 2011 @ 2:00pm,
Zoning Board Conference Room
2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building

Wednesday, March 16, 2011 @ 6:00pm
Multi Purpose Center, Beach Road, Susupe

The proposed amendments and map changes may be viewed at the following locations:

Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan
Joeten-Kiyu Public Library
Zoning Board website: www.zoning.gov.mp (publications page)

Please call the Zoning Office for updated information regarding availability.

Comments on the proposed changes may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office and they must be received at the Zoning Office by 4:30pm Tuesday, April 12, 2011. Send written comments via e-mail to dwyatt@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or hand-deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearings, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Office at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2008.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

World

WORLD BRIEFS

ElBaradei sets conditions for presidential run

CAIRO (AP)—Nobel laureate Mohamed ElBaradei, former head of the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency, said Wednesday that he will run for president only if a real democratic system is in place, not the reforms Egypt's military leaders are proposing. ElBaradei told a private Egyptian television said that suggested constitutional amendments to move Egypt toward democracy are "superficial." He appealed to the military rulers to scrap them or delay a scheduled March 19 referendum on them. "We are at a decisive period in Egypt's history," he told ONTV. "We shouldn't rush. Everything should be on a solid basis." The constitutional amendments limit a president to two four-year terms. They also allow independents and opposition members to run, impossible under the regime of deposed President Hosni Mubarak. Even so, ElBaradei said he would vote against the amendments. He said the changes don't limit the powers of president or give enough time for political parties to form, setting parliamentary elections soon. The military rulers have said they want to hand over power six months after the ouster of Mubarak. The proposed amendments suggest that elections, both presidential and parliamentary, would take place during that period.

Moroccan king says constitution to be revised

RABAT, Morocco (AP)—King Mohammed VI said Wednesday that Morocco will revise its constitution for the first time in 15 years, aiming to strengthen democracy in the face of a push across the Arab world. In a rare TV and radio speech to the nation, the popular monarch said a new commission would suggest constitutional revisions to him by June, and the overall project would be put to Moroccan voters in a referendum. "By launching today the work of constitutional reform, we embark on a major phase in the process of consolidation of our model of democracy and development," said the king, wearing glasses, a sober black tie and a dark suit. He was flanked by his brother, Prince Moulay Rachid, and his 7-year-old son, Crown Prince Moulay Hassan. Some Moroccans poured into the streets of Rabat, the capital, to celebrate after the speech, blaring car horns and waving the North African country's single-star flag. But the overall reaction to the country's first constitutional revision since 1996, and the first since Mohammed VI took the throne following his father's death in 1999, wasn't immediately clear. The speech, which was only announced hours earlier, came as many people in the football-crazy country tuned in to watch the latest European Champions League contests.

Yemeni dies of wounds from army raid on university

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—Thousands of Yemenis defiantly demonstrated Wednesday at a public square, a day after the army stormed Sanaa University, firing live ammunition, killing one person and wounding scores of others. The attack escalated tensions in Yemen, which has been rocked by weeks of protests against President Ali Abdullah Saleh, a key U.S. ally in the campaign against al-Qaida who has been in power 32 years. Abdullah al-Jeifi, 24, died and several other protesters who were shot in Tuesday's raid were in serious condition, said Mohammed al-Abahi, one of the doctors volunteering at the Sanaa University campus. Soldiers also used rubber bullets and tear gas in their assault. Outraged at the government raid, more protesters camped out in tents near the university and on campus Wednesday. A group of young protesters issued a "black list" with the names of 13 officials they say are responsible for the violence against peaceful protesters. The names include the son of President Ali Abdullah Saleh who heads the Republican Guards, the interior minister and other top security officials. The statement vowed revenge against those they called "criminals" and pledged to continue with the sit-in until they topple the regime. Thousands of people also protested in the southern port city of Aden and on the streets of Ibb province. Human rights groups and the U.S. criticized Yemen's crackdown on protests Wednesday.

NATO could easily impose no-fly zone in Libya

AP

Anti-Libyan Leader Moammar Gadhafi rebels, prepare to fire rockets during fighting against pro- Gadhafi fighters, in Sidra town, eastern Libya, on Wednesday March 9, 2011.

CAIRO (AP)—Western leaders know NATO jets could easily force Moammar Gadhafi's few dozen Cold War-era warplanes from the skies and rob the Libyan dictator of a powerful weapon against rebels trying to oust him. But they're wary of involvement.

Imposing a no-fly zone from a string of Mediterranean bases and aircraft carriers could become a complex, long-term commitment for the U.S. and its allies. It would require airstrikes on Gadhafi's anti-aircraft weapons and risk drawing the West into another grueling military conflict in the Muslim world.

The Libyan rebels, who lack planes, have pleaded for such a zone—a plan endorsed by Britain, France and some key U.S. lawmakers. But NATO nations appeared torn Wednesday between the desire for action and fears of unintended consequences in a conflict that has divided Libya and driven oil prices to 2 1/2-year highs.

The White House said a meeting of President Barack Obama's top security advisers would not result in an immediate decision on U.S. action. NATO said it was planning for "all eventualities" but gave little sign of moving to set up a no-fly zone.

"NATO is not looking to intervene in Libya," NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said.

Although many nations want to tip the balance of military power away from Gadhafi, protecting civilians would be the key public rationale for any no-fly arrangement.

A senior U.S. official in Brussels said a no-fly zone would be "a difficult, costly and large operation," and noted that there was no evidence of any large-scale bombardment of civilians. He spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue.

U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates observed last week that attacking Libyan air defenses would be necessary before imposing a no-fly zone, and would be tantamount to war. Gadhafi has warned of retaliation against no-fly patrols.

Weighing heavily on the debate are the lessons of Iraq and the Balkans, where no-fly zones lasting years were credited with preventing much bloodshed in the 1990s but still did not stop some massacres.

The U.S., France and UK declared no-fly zones for fixed-wing aircraft after the 1991 Gulf War in order to protect Kurds in Iraq's north and Shiites in the south from Saddam Hussein's air force.

However, Saddam circumvented them by using helicopters to devastating effect when he hunted down dissenters through marshes while putting down protests across southern Iraq, said Michael Rubin, a Middle East scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative U.S. think tank.

Rubin, who advocates a no-fly zone over Libya to protect civilians, says the ban must include helicopter flights.

Other U.S. experts have cited the Iraq experience as an argument against a no-fly zone.

"The no-fly zone remained in place for about 12 years without forcing change in Saddam's policies," George Friedman, CEO of the Stratfor intelligence analysis group, wrote in a recent report. "The same is likely to be true in Libya. The no-fly zone is a low-risk action with little ability to change the military reality that creates an impression of decisive action."

And such a zone might fail to eliminate one of the major threats from the air.

Gadhafi has between two and three dozen Russian-built Mil helicopter gunships, some of which have mounted the deadliest known attacks against the rebellion. The fast NATO fighter jets would have a hard time detecting and targeting the slow-moving, ground-hugging helicopters.

After ethnic fighting erupted in Bosnia, the U.N. Security Council ordered a no-fly zone in 1992 to protect areas under government control from strikes by rebel Serbian jets.

Allied interceptors shot down four Serbian attack jets, but the zone failed to stop fighting on the ground. In the bloodiest incident, Serbian troops overran the government-held enclave of Srebrenica and massacred 7,000 captured soldiers and refugees in the worst slaughter in Europe since World War II.

A no-fly zone requires complex planning on legal authority, rules of engagement and details on how much territory it covers and during what times of day, said David Deptula, a retired U.S. lieutenant general who oversaw a no-fly zone over northern Iraq after the 1991 war.

"This isn't just sending a bunch of airplanes to shoot down other aircraft," he said.

The zone need not span all of Libya, one of Africa's largest countries, because much of the fighting has been confined to its coastal strip.

NATO and the U.S. say they would not act without U.N. Security Council authorization, and Western diplomats have said a Britain- and France-backed resolution to impose a no-fly zone won't be introduced to the council unless it is endorsed by the Arab League and the African Union at meetings in coming days.

Gadhafi's pilots would almost certainly be routed if they tried to flout a Western flight ban.

Since the 1990s, poor maintenance and lack of funding have shrunk Gadhafi's fleet of more than 400 fighter-bombers, light attack jets and helicopter gunships to a few dozen aircraft. What remains are mostly Sukhoi Su-22 and Mig-23 fighter bombers and Yugoslav-made Jastreb light strike jets dating from the late 1960s. Several have been destroyed by the insurgents, or been flown out of the country by pilots defecting from Gadhafi's forces.

The government has only a handful of planes designed to intercept other aircraft, the Mig-21 and Mig-25, also dating from the 1960s.

NATO officials say they could quickly deploy 200-300 jets to Libya from bases stretching from Gibraltar to Greece, and from U.S. carriers in the Mediterranean.

These would include top-of-the-line Eurofighter Typhoons used by the British, Italian and Spanish air forces. Also available are the formidable French Dassault Rafale fighter and the U.S. Boeing Co.'s F-18 Super Hornet, the backbone of U.S. Navy air power.

The alliance also would have a huge advantage in its AWACS planes—whose rotating radars can look 200 miles (320 kilometers) deep into enemy airspace, monitor all aerial movements over Libyan territory and direct planes to any violators of the no-fly zone.

They also are equipped with the latest air-to-air missiles, which are far more sophisticated than the Soviet-built models of the 1980s in the Libyan arsenal.

Off the Wall

Cops: Pa. pizzeria owner left mice at rival restos

UPPER DARBY, Pa. (AP)—A pizzeria owner with mice problems he blamed on competitors tried to sabotage two rival shops by dumping mice in them Monday, authorities in suburban Philadelphia said.

Upper Darby police said a man walked into Verona Pizza on Monday afternoon and asked to use the bathroom. After he left, the owner said he found footprints on the toilet and noticed that the drop ceiling had been disturbed, and he found a bag tucked up above.

The owner turned the bag over to two police officers who happened to be eating lunch there, and they found three white mice inside, police Superintendent Michael Chitwood said.

Police say the man then walked across the street to Uncle Nick's Pizza and dumped another bag into a trash can inside the establishment, and police found five live mice and one dead one inside.

"We have never had anything like this where mice have been used as an instrument of crime," Chitwood said.

"This is food terrorism by mice."

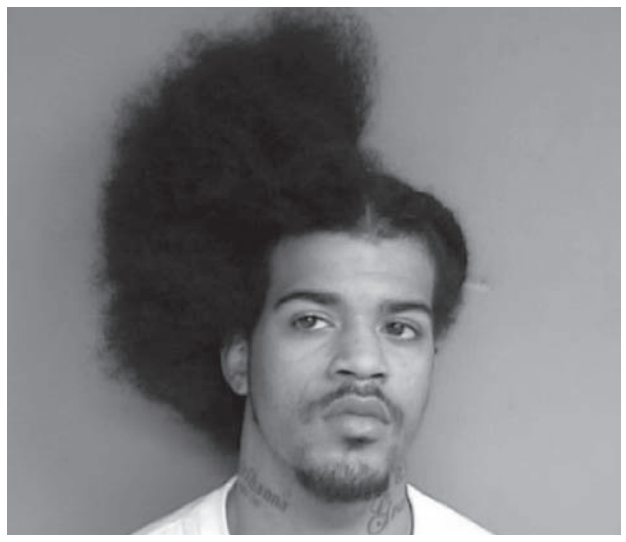
Nikolas Galiatsatos, 47, owner of Nina's Bella Pizzeria a few blocks away, faces charges of disorderly conduct, harassment and animal cruelty, police said.

Chitwood told reporters that investigators believe Galiatsatos was having mice problems himself that he blamed on his competitors.

"We believe that he's trying to put the competitive pizza places out of business," Chitwood said. He said the mice, apparently purchased that day at a nearby pet store, have been turned over to animal control officers.

Galiatsatos remained in custody and it was unclear whether he had an attorney. A call to his shop was referred to a man who said he was Galiatsatos' father but declined to give his name and declined to comment.

Conn. man accused of stabbing man during haircut



AP

This Tuesday, March 8, 2011 booking photo released by the Stamford, Conn., Police shows David C. Davis, 21, of New Haven, Conn., who was arrested Tuesday and charged with slashing another man in the back while he was in the middle of a haircut.

STAMFORD, Conn. (AP)—Police say a man was getting a haircut at an apartment in Stamford, Conn., when he grabbed scissors and slashed another man in the back. David Davis was arrested soon afterward when officers with a police dog found him in a nearby apartment. A police mug shot shows Davis with thick hair sticking up from only one side of his head.

Stamford police Sgt. Cory Caserta says Davis was arraigned Wednesday on an assault charge. The 21-year-old man from New Haven was being held on $5,000 bond.

Authorities say the victim approached Davis during his haircut Tuesday in what he called "an aggressive manner." Davis told investigators he picked up the scissors in self-defense.

The 21-year-old victim was taken to Stamford Hospital to receive treatment for the back wound.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Police find field of money in Ohio highway median

DELAWARE, Ohio (AP)—Police north of Columbus, Ohio, are trying to figure out how thousands of dollars in cash ended up along a highway. Police Chief Russ Martin in the city of Delaware says there were so many bills in the median of U.S. Route 23 on Monday that an officer said it looked as though the field was growing money. Authorities had been alerted by a motorist, and officers spent hours collecting the cash. Martin won't reveal the total except to say it was "five figures." He tells WBNS-TV that police checked with the FBI, an armored car company and bank couriers. None reported missing any money.

Dad: Baby with 1 scratch after SUV lands atop crib

RICHMOND, Ky. (AP)—The father of a baby girl says the Kentucky infant survived with just a scratch on the head after a sport utility vehicle crashed into her room and came to rest atop her crib. Kenneth Enright told Lexington station WKYT-TV that the SUV barely missed his 10-month-old daughter when it crashed Monday morning into his home in Kirksville, central Kentucky. Enright says the Toyota 4-Runner tore a gaping hole through a wall and he quickly ran into the room where he heard his daughter crying. He says he found the infant just inches away from the SUV's front tire and adds she had her hands up "like, get me out of here." Authorities say it appeared the driver lost control, adding the crash is considered an accident.

Man says he took ambulance because he needed ride

HAZARD, Ky. (AP)—A man in eastern Kentucky charged with stealing an ambulance says he just needed a ride home. A Perry County ambulance crew was inside a hospital in Hazard for only a few minutes Friday night and left the keys in the ignition. WYMT-TV reports that when they came out, the vehicle was gone. City Police Sgt. Randy Napier says an off-duty Kentucky State Police detective saw the ambulance being driven erratically pulled it over. Napier says 26-year-old Shane Hale told the detective he only needed a ride home and was going to call the ambulance service the next day and report where the vehicle was.

Woman trying to pet moose in Alaska park gets kick

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—Don't mess with the moose. That's the warning police in Anchorage, Alaska, are repeating after one of the animals kicked a woman in the chest and shoulder at a city park. She was checked by medics Monday afternoon and didn't have to go to a hospital. The Anchorage Daily News reports the moose had been in Town Square Park most of the day feeding on trees. The woman in her 20s was attacked when she tried to pet it.

Greeter charged with robbery of own Walmart in NC

STATESVILLE, N.C. (AP)—Police have charged an 83-year-old greeter at a North Carolina Walmart with trying to rob the store over the weekend. Police say George Plane Jr. of Mooresville was working Sunday night when he went to his car, donned a disguise and walked back inside the Statesville store with a gun. Statesville Police Chief Tom Anderson says Plane put the gun to a fellow employee's head and demanded money from a cash register. Anderson says Plane fired a shot in the air after leaving with the money. Plane was arrested later Sunday. He was being held Monday on multiple charges, including robbery with a dangerous weapon.

Intruder, Ore. homeowner call police on each other

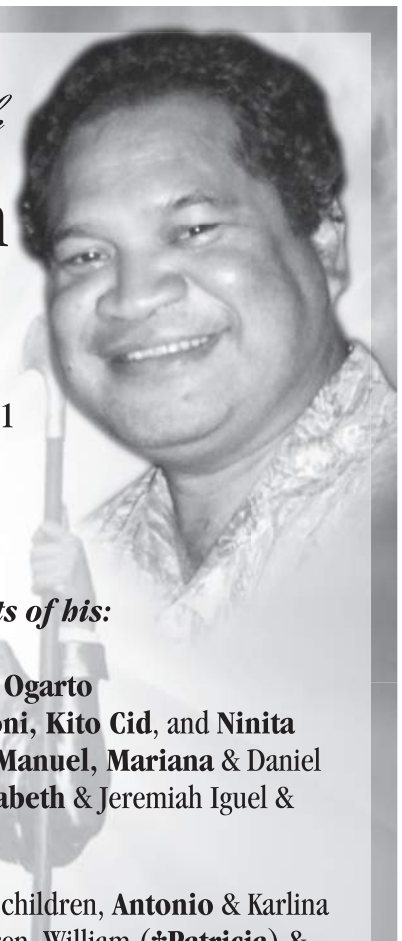
PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Oregon police say both an intruder and a Portland homeowner phoned 911 to report the same thing: a strange man in a home. Lt. Kelli Sheffer says the intruder told police he had just broken into a home Monday evening when the owner arrived—and the caller was worried the homeowner might have a gun. Accompanied by his two German Shepherds, the homeowner found the intruder and asked what he was doing in the house. That's when the stranger locked himself in a bathroom and phoned police. The homeowner called police with his account. Sheffer says 24-year-old Timothy James Chapek, of Portland, was booked into jail for investigation of first-degree criminal trespass.

Lasagna trail leads police to fugitive in Italy

ROME (AP)—He avoided Italian police for a decade on the run, but couldn't resist his wife's lasagna. Police say Giancarlo Sabatini went into hiding in 2000, shortly after being given a 3-year, 8-month prison sentence in a cocaine trafficking case. Acting on a tip, police staked out the homes of Sabatini's wife and daughter Tuesday in Rocca Priora, a town near Rome. When they spied the daughter leaving her mother's house and furtively dashing toward her home bearing a tray of lasagna, police, suspecting a secret guest, burst in and arrested Sabatini.

In Celebration of His New Life

†Isidro Rabauliman Ogarto



Lovingly known as "Kazu"

Born: October 14, 1959 Died: March 7, 2011

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Wife: **Leovinia Teregeyo Taitano Ogarto**
Children: **Elaine Carmilita, Erika Sioni, Kito Cid**, and **Ninita**
Brother/Sister and in-laws: Trinita (**†Edwin**), **Manuel, Mariana** & Daniel Eugenio & children, and **Elizabeth** & Jeremiah Iguel & children

In-Laws: **Trinidad** & Nicksy Berdon & children, **Antonio** & Karlina & children, **Dorothy** & children, William (**†Patricia**) & children, **Tricia Ann** & Edson & child and **Ignacio** & Bing & children

In his new life he joins his:

Father: ***Isidro Limes Ogarto***
Mother: ***Carmen "Lúghúmaal" Fitial Rabauliman Ogarto***
Brother: ***Francisco, Manuel and Edwin***
Parents In Law: ***Juan Lisua Taitano***
Carmen Teregeyo Taitano
Sister-in-Law: ***Patricia T. Rabauliman***

Daily mass of intentions are being offered at 6:00am at San Jose and Kristo Rai Church and at 6:00pm at Santa Soledad followed by rosary at 7:00pm.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday, March 17, 2011. His remains will be escorted from the CHC Chapel at 7:30am to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 3:00pm followed by Interment Services at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery where he will be at a peaceful rest.

Please Join Us In Prayers,
Leovinia Ogarto
Children and Family

Science & Technology

Laptop tracks gaze, taking eye-tracking out of lab

NEW YORK (AP)—Ever wish your eyes were lasers? A laptop prototype brings that wish closer to reality.

It tracks your gaze and figures out where you're looking on the screen. That means, among other things, that you can play a game where you burn up incoming asteroids with a laser that hits where you look.

In another demonstration this week, the computer scrolled a text on the screen in response to eye movements, sensing when the reader reached the end of the visible text.

In the future, a laptop like this could make the mouse cursor appear where you're looking, or make a game character maintain eye contact with you, according to Tobii Technology Inc., the Swedish firm that's behind the tracking technology.

AP

Barbara Barclay of Tobii Technology, Inc. demonstrates a prototype laptop that tracks and can be controlled by the eye movements of the user in New York, Monday, Feb. 28, 2011.

The eye tracker works by shining two invisible infrared lights at you. Two hidden cameras then look for the "glints" off your eyeballs and reflections from each retina. It needs to be calibrated for each person. It works for people with or without eyeglasses.

Rather than a replacement for the traditional mouse and keyboard or the newer touch screen, the eye-tracking could be a complement, making a computer faster and more efficient to use, said Barbara Barclay, general manager of Tobii's Analysis Solutions business.

Tobii has been making eye-tracking devices for researchers and the disabled for nearly a decade. The laptop is its way of showing that eye-tracking could expand beyond those niches, Barclay said, calling it an "idea generator."

The laptop is made by Lenovo Corp., and incorporates Tobii's eye-tracking cameras in a "hump" on the cover, making the entire package about twice as thick as a regular laptop. But future, commercial versions can be slimmer and are perhaps two years away, Barclay said.

Lenovo and Tobii made 20 of the laptops and planned to demonstrate them at the CeBIT technology trade show in Hanover, Germany, on Tuesday.

Tobii's current, standalone eye-trackers cost tens of thousands of dollars, but Barclay said the cost of adding consumer-level eye-tracking to a commercial laptop could be much less.

New ways to use computers have been proliferating in recent years. Touch screens are becoming popular on smart phones and tablet computers such as the iPad. Nintendo Corp.'s Wii game console brought motion-sensing technology to the masses. Microsoft Corp. released an accessory for its Xbox games console last year that uses an infrared camera to sense the movement of bodies in three dimensions.

Turing award goes to 'machine learning' expert

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A Harvard University professor has been awarded a top technology prize for research that has paved the way for computers that more closely mimic how humans think, including the one that won a "Jeopardy!" tournament.

Leslie Valiant, who teaches computer science and applied mathematics at Harvard's School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, was awarded the A.M. Turing Award for 2010, the Association for Computing Machinery said Wednesday. The $250,000 award is considered the Nobel Prize of computing and is named after the famous British mathematician Alan M. Turing.

Some of Valiant's biggest contributions concern the mathematical foundations of computer learning, an area of study that has led to breakthroughs such as IBM Corp.'s Watson, the machine built to play "Jeopardy!" In matches aired last month, the computer breezed past two of the game show's top winners in a display of how far computer scientists have come in programming computers to understand the subtleties of human language and make decisions based on the mountains of data the machines are able to store.

The association cited contributions that have led to advances in artificial intelligence and areas such as natural language processing, handwriting recognition and computer vision. It also cited his influential models for "parallel computing," or processing many different kinds of data at once rather than the one-at-a-time approach of traditional computing.

Intel Corp., the world's biggest computer chip maker, and Google Inc., the Internet search leader, provide funding for the prize.

ACM President Alain Chesnais said Valiant's accomplishments over the past 30 years have led to "extraordinary achievements" in machine learning.

"His work has produced modeling that offers computationally inspired answers on fundamental questions like how the brain 'computes,'" Chesnais said. "His profound vision in computer science, mathematics, and cognitive theory have been combined with other techniques to build modern forms of machine learning and communication, like IBM's 'Watson' computing system, that have enabled computing systems to rival a human's ability to answer questions."

The organization cited Valiant's "Theory of the Learnable," published in 1984 in Communications of the Association for Computing Machinery, as one of the "seminal contributions to machine learning." His 1982 paper, "A Scheme for Fast Parallel Communication," offered a simple solution to data congestion when computers communicate over networks with limited capacity.

The award will be presented June 4 at a ceremony in San Jose, Calif.

An automatic login program is easy to defeat

By NOAH MATTHEWS
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Three cheers for useful programs that come in small downloads, are free and do what their programmers say they'll do. The software, not the programmers (of which I am a former member), who promise the moon, sometimes deliver it and other times offer up a heaping brick of green cheese.

Autologin is one that delivers everything but the green cheese, which is a high compliment.

The program allows users to bypass the Windows login screen by automatically entering their user name password. What to do if you forget your password? Just hold down the shift key. Which is a good reason for only the system administrator to install the software, keep track of everyone's passwords and never, ever explain to other users how to disable Autologin, which is simplicity itself.

In fact, you might want to consider using Autologin just for yourself, and lock the computer room door so others don't have access to your PC. This program is fine for one user, but not so fine for multiple users.

Autologin, which is free, can be downloaded from ZDNET.com, an excellent site for the latest downloads. You will have to register, however, if you want to download files.

Warner Bros. to offer movie rentals on Facebook

NEW YORK (AP)—Movie rentals are coming to Facebook. Warner Bros. says it is testing a service that will offer select movies for purchase or rental through the public pages of these movies on the world's largest online social network.

Starting Tuesday, Facebook users who visit the official page of "Batman: The Dark Knight" can click a "watch" icon and pay 30 Facebook credits, or $3, to watch the movie. The movie is streamed through a Facebook application.

Renters have access to a movie for 48 hours and can replay it as many times as they like. Warner Bros. said it will add other movies in coming months but did not say what those would be.

The page had nearly 4 million "likes" as of Tuesday afternoon. Another page, called simply "Dark Knight," had about 2 million—but this is not the official Warner Bros. page and the movie isn't available through it.

Warner Bros. didn't say how much it will cost to buy movies.

"Making our films available through Facebook is a natural extension of our digital distribution efforts," said Thomas Gewecke, president of Warner Bros. Digital Distribution, in a statement.

The offering is only open to people in the United States.

"While officially dubbed a test, we expect to see more studios get behind the effort given the large platform and higher price point," wrote Jefferies analyst Youssef H. Squali in a note to investors. He added that he sees the Facebook-Warner Bros. deal as "yet another caution sign" against movie rental company Netflix Inc.'s high stock value.

Netflix lost $11.95, or 5.8 percent, to close at $195.45. Time Warner Inc., which owns Warner Bros., fell 35 cents to close at $36.43.

"With Facebook's entry, the competitive playing field is getting crowded," the analyst said. "We expect this competition to curtail Netflix's subscriber growth and drive higher content costs, impacting revenue growth and (profit) margins over time."

Netflix had no comment.

Q&A: Format documents to stay compatible with Microsoft Word

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: I'm writing a novel using Microsoft Works. I recently bought an Acer Aspire netbook that doesn't have Works, but does come with Microsoft WordPad.

If I write my novel on WordPad, how will I be able to get my existing chapters transferred to it? (I know you can purchase Microsoft Word, but I can't afford it.) Also, I read about the TinyWord program—is that similar?

If I start using another writing program, will other people be able to open the file if I e-mail it to them?—Lynn Erice, Lyndonville, N.Y.

ANSWER: You're right to be concerned about which file format to use. If you submit your novel to a literary agent, you'll want it to be in a format someone else's PC can easily read. Because Microsoft Word is the most widely used writing software, you want a format that's Word-compatible.

I suggest using the Rich Text Format (.rtf), which is compatible with Microsoft's Word, Works and WordPad programs and also is used by TinyWord, a free word processor you can find at tinyword.net.

If you want more than just a word processor, download the free OpenOffice (see openoffice.org) whose word processor uses the .rtf format.

To get started, use Works to save your chapters in the .rtf format (click "save as" and pick .rtf from the drop-down menu), then use a flash drive to transfer them to your new PC.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: My grandson tried to play some of his favorite online games using my Windows XP computer, but he couldn't because the new Adobe Flash Player software wouldn't install on my PC.

We've updated the Internet Explorer Web browser to be compatible with the latest version of Flash, and we've tried uninstalling Flash, then installing it again. What's the problem?—Richard A. Joanisse, Val-des-Monts, Quebec

A: There are several potential causes of your problem, such as incorrect settings in Internet Explorer or the existence of previous versions of Flash that need to be uninstalled from your PC before installing the latest one. Adobe Systems offers troubleshooting instructions for Flash Player at tinyurl.com/cudx8x.

Another possibility is that you have Windows XP Professional x64 Edition, a 64-bit operating system that has the advantage of being able to use more Random Access Memory (RAM), but has compatibility problems with some commonly used software. That version of Windows includes both a 64-bit version of Internet Explorer that can't use Adobe Flash and a 32-bit version that can. To find the right version of Internet Explorer on your PC, see tinyurl.com/29beqdf.

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. *Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; e-mail: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.*

Life & Style

Source: Mel Gibson to plead in LA battery case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Mel Gibson has reached a plea agreement with prosecutors who plan to file a misdemeanor battery charge against the Oscar winner over a fight last year with his then-girlfriend, a person with knowledge of the case said Wednesday.

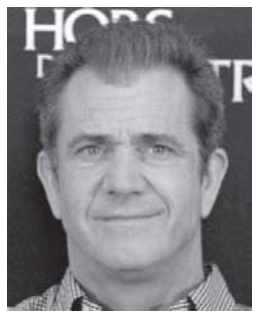
Gibson will appear in person to enter the plea, according to the person who was not authorized to discuss details of the agreement publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Gibson was expected to be formally charged with battery this week, and the agreement could allow the actor-director to avoid jail time.

The charge stems from a dispute between Gibson and Oksana Grigorieva in January 2010.

The Russian musician did not report the incident until months later, after the pair broke up and had negotiated a custody agreement involving their infant daughter.

Gibson's attorney Blair Berk said in a written statement that Gibson sought an agreement to resolve the case with his children in mind.



Gibson

"I know from almost 20 years as a criminal defense lawyer that sometimes justice can come for a client at too high a personal price," Berk's statement reads. "That is particularly so for Mel, whose right to due process can only be exercised in this case with an enormous media circus attached."

Berk's statement did not disclose further details of the plea agreement.

The charge is another blow to Gibson, the star of the "Lethal Weapon" film series, whose reputation in Hollywood took a major hit after a 2006 arrest for drunken driving.

A deputy's report leaked to the celebrity website TMZ revealed the star had used anti-Semitic and sexist slurs.

His conviction was later expunged.

Recordings leaked last year during Gibson's custody battle with Grigorieva also contained racist and sexist taunts by the actor during a series of tirades.

Gibson, 55, has never addressed the recordings, which were given to sheriff's investigators and widely circulated by the celebrity website RadarOnline.

The Los Angeles District Attorney's Office did not say Wednesday if it planned to charge Grigorieva with extortion, a case Gibson pursued after Grigorieva reported the fight to authorities.

Gibson's latest film, "The Beaver," is due to premiere soon at the South by Southwest festival in Austin, Texas. It is only the second major film Gibson has starred in since 2002.

He portrays a deeply troubled man able to communicate only through a beaver puppet in the film directed by Jodie Foster.

Although Gibson's prominence as an actor has diminished, he has remained a Hollywood fixture and drawn audiences as a director.

His 2004 film "The Passion of the Christ" was a surprise blockbuster, earning more than $300 million.

His relationship with Grigorieva returned Gibson to the limelight, with the pair appearing on red carpets and awards shows, and the actor-director confirming her pregnancy on "The Tonight Show."

Grigorieva, 40, also has a teenage son with actor Timothy Dalton.

Gibson allegedly struck the Russian musician on Jan. 6, 2010.

The Sheriff's Department opened its investigation in July and later began looking into Gibson's allegations that Grigorieva had attempted to extort him.

The 'eyes' have it for Amanda Seyfried

By RICK BENTLEY
THE FRESNO BEE

LOS ANGELES—Amanda Seyfried, what big eyes you have.

All the better to land the title role in "Red Riding Hood," the new action/romance that gives the fairy tale about the original girl in the hood a more supernatural spin.

"That's what made me think of her. So we measured her and she won," jokes director Catherine Hardwicke. "Look at her, she's a fairy tale character."

Even co-star Gary Oldman admits the camera adores Seyfried's face.

Eyes aside, Hardwick knew Seyfried was perfect after seeing her in such diverse roles as the musical "Mamma Mia!" and the drama "Chloe." "I was like 'That chick can do anything',"' Hardwicke says.

Seyfried needed to do more than look like she just stepped out of a fairy tale. She had to portray the character as vulnerable but strong—not a damsel in distress.

AP

In this film publicity image released by Warner Bros. Pictures, Amanda Seyfried shown in a scene from "Red Riding Hood."

"She's like this young, strong female who is going through her life and realizing her sexuality and trying to navigate herself through her young adult life in this medieval village," Seyfried says.

She likes fearless characters, and this character had to find the courage to deal with both a complicated love triangle and over-protective parents.

That's not to say the hooded heroine was a mirror image of Seyfried. In one scene she has to show reserved jealousy when a suitor toys with her emotions. That's not how Seyfried would behave in real life, she says.

50 Cent, linked to Gadhafi event, donates money

NEW YORK (AP)—50 Cent is the latest artist to make a donation to charity after it was revealed he performed at an event linked to the clan of Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi.

A statement released to The Associated Press on Wednesday said the rapper, who has his own G-Unity foundation, will be making a donation to UNICEF to help with that organization's relief efforts during the turmoil in Libya.

"In light of the ongoing events in Libya, 50 Cent will be making a donation to UNICEF, which is providing vital relief supplies to meet the needs of women and children at risk during this crisis," said a representative for 50 Cent, whose real name is Curtis Jackson.

50 Cent performed at a private event during the 2005 Venice Film Festival that was later linked to the Gadhafi clan. Gadhafi is battling rebels who are revolting against his rule, and faces an investigation for possible war crimes.

Last week, Beyonce, Usher, Mariah Carey and Nelly Furtado announced donations to charity in the wake of their participation in private concerts connected to the Gadhafis.

'Spider-Man' musical to open in early summer

NEW YORK (AP)—Producers of Broadway's "Spider-Man" musical postponed the show's official opening for a stunning sixth time, announcing Wednesday that it will not officially open until this summer and that it will bring in a new creative team.

Julie Taymor, who directed and co-wrote the book for "Spider Man: Turn Off the Dark," will no longer helm the production but will be a part of the creative team, the producers said.

The delay revealed a production so trouble-plagued that it has taken itself out of the running for Tony Award consideration this year, but it will be eligible for the 2012 season. The $65 million show was scheduled to open on March 15.

"The team will be implementing a new plan to make significant and exciting revisions to the production," lead producers Michael Cohl and Jeremiah J. Harris said in a statement. "This amended schedule will allow the time necessary to execute the plan, which will include revisions to the script."

The show's representative, Rick Miramontez, said no performances will be canceled during the overhaul.

Philip William McKinley and Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa have joined the $65 million production to assist with new staging and rewrites. Musical consultants Paul Bogaev and sound designer Peter Hylenski are also on the new team.

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Battle: Los Angeles
Friday 4:30 7:30 9:55
Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:55
Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:30
Aaron Eckhart, Michelle Rodriguez
Science Fiction • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
A platoon of Marines take on an alien invasion throughout Los Angeles in this Original Films sci-fi action picture, headed by director Jonathan Liebesman (Texas Chainsaw Massacre: The Beginning) and producer Neal H. Moritz. The Dark Knight's Aaron Eckhart stars in the produciton.

Red Riding Hood
Friday 4:15 7:15 10:00
Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 10:00
Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:15
Amanda Sayfried, Gary Oldman
Horror • Rated PG 13

Mars Needs Moms
Friday 4:20 7:20 9:40
Saturday 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:40
Sunday 1:20 4:20 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:20
Seth Green, Joan Cusack
Science Fiction • Rated PG

Rango
Friday 4:00 7:00 9:30
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:30
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00
Johnny Depp, Isla Fisher
Children's/Family • Rated G
Synopsis
Helmer Gore Verbinksi (Pirates of the Caribbean) directs this family-oriented animated adventure starring the voice of Johnny Depp as a family pet who leaves the comfort of home in order to explore the outside world. John Logan (The Aviator) provides the script for the Paramount Pictures production. Abigail Breslin, Isla Fisher, Alfred Molina, Ray Winstone, Harry Dean Stanton, and Ned Beatty provide the voices for the rest of the cast.

The Adjustment Bureau
Friday 4:10 7:10 9:50
Saturday 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:50
Sunday 1:10 4:10 7:10
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:10
Matt Damon, Emily Blunt
Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

I Am Number Four
Friday 4:25 7:25 9:35
Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:35
Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:25
Alex Pettyfer, Timothy Olyphant
Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

Take Me Home Tonight
Friday 7:05
Saturday 1:05 7:05
Sunday 1:05 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 7:05
Ana Faris, Topher Grace
Comedy Drama • Rated R

Unknown
Friday 4:05 9:45
Saturday 4:05 9:45
Sunday 4:05
Mon thru Thurs 4:05
Liam Neeson, Diane Kruger
Thriller • Rated PG 13

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Video: Clerk let Lohan leave store with necklace

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Surveillance footage shows that a clerk smiled and held the door open for Lindsay Lohan when she walked out of a jewelry store that later accused her of stealing a $2,500 necklace.

"Entertainment Tonight" aired the footage Wednesday, a day before the actress returns to court to announce whether she intends to accept a plea deal in the felony grand theft case that includes a guaranteed jail sentence.

The clerk did not attempt to stop the "Mean Girls" star and did not appear to raise any issues with the actress as she left the store in January. The store later reported the necklace stolen and police obtained a search warrant for the starlet's home, but the item was turned over to detectives before the search was conducted.

"Entertainment Tonight" has since Monday shown portions of surveillance footage showing Lohan inside Kamofie & Co. A commercial images division of The Associated Press obtained the video and licensed it exclusively to "Entertainment Tonight."

Lohan has pleaded not guilty to grand theft, which is the most serious charge the actress has faced. She was on probation for a 2007 drunken driving case and had been released from rehab for roughly three weeks when she visited the store near her Venice home.

AP

This image taken from video provided by Entertainment Tonight shows Lindsay Lohan, center, at Kamofie and Co. in Venice, Calif. on Jan. 21, 2011.

In other portions of the video, Lohan is seen texting and trying on two other necklaces. She wore the necklace for roughly 25 minutes before leaving Kamofie, according to the video.

The store's owners announced Wednesday that they will auction the necklace and donate the proceeds to an unspecified charity after Lohan's case is resolved.

"We have already publicly released the videotape which speaks for itself and accurately records the incident, and we believe the next step toward achieving closure is to donate the now-famous jewelry to charity," store owners Sofia and Geoff Kaman said in a statement released Wednesday morning.

They did not say which charity may receive the proceeds, but are seeking suggestions on a website set up to possibly stream the video online at a later date, http://www.necklacevideo.com.

The necklace is evidence in the case against Lohan and remains in the custody of authorities. Kamofie spokesman Christopher Spencer said the auction will not take place until after the theft case is resolved.

Lohan could accept a plea deal Thursday, or choose to fight the theft case which would trigger another hearing where more evidence against her would be presented. After that hearing, the judge could determine Lohan violated her probation and sentence her to jail while she awaits trial on the theft case.

Sheen gets 74,040 applications for internship

NEW YORK (AP)—How bad is the current job market? At least 74,040 people would like to work for Charlie Sheen.

Internships.com said Wednesday that that's how many people have applied to Sheen's internship position since he posted it Monday. The actor said he would pay someone to help leverage his social media network this summer.

The posting was also a paid advertisement from Internships.com. The application wasn't exactly extensive: It limited applicants to 75 characters or less.

On Monday, Sheen was fired by Warner Bros. Television from the hit CBS show "Two and a Half Men." In a webcast Tuesday evening, Sheen lambasted the decision.

Lady Gaga, Target end deal to sell CD in stores

NEW YORK (AP)—Lady Gaga's deal to sell a special edition of her upcoming album at Target is now out of range.

A representative for the singer said Wednesday the two sides "came to a mutual decision to end their overall exclusive partnership a few weeks ago."

Last month, it was announced that Target would be selling a deluxe edition of the album, to be released May 23, with bonus content.

But gay advocates were concerned about the partnership, citing Target's donations to a political candidate who was against gay marriage. Gaga told Billboard that her relationship with the retail giant was tied to their "reform," supporting the gay community and making up for past "mistakes."

The Advocate reported Tuesday that Gaga wasn't comfortable with the deal and ended it.

Target says it's "very surprised and disappointed" and that it remains committed to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

'American Idol' singers tackle their own idols

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Casey Abrams didn't need any help from his friends to shine on "American Idol."

The quirky 30-year-old film camp counselor from Idyllwild, Calif., wowed the judges with his energetic take on Joe Cocker's rendition of "With A Little Help From My Friends" during the idol-centric first round of finals Wednesday on the Fox talent competition.

"Idol" judge Jennifer Lopez said his stellar performance made her forget where she was for a moment.

Abrams wasn't alone in earning praise from the show's panel. They were also pleased with Pia Toscano, the 22-year-old makeup artist from Howard Beach, N.Y., who soared with Celine Dion's "All By Myself," as well the gospel-infused version of R. Kelly's "I Believe I Can Fly" from 23-year-old spa concierge Jacob Lusk of Compton, Calif.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Julianne Moore set to play Sarah Palin in HBO film

NEW YORK (AP)—Julianne Moore is set to play former vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin in an upcoming TV film. HBO Films said Wednesday that Moore will star in the film "Game Change," which follows John McCain's 2008 presidential campaign from when he chose Palin as his running mate through their defeat in the general election. The film is based on the bestselling book of the same name. No other cast members were announced, and HBO did not say when production on the film might begin. Moore is a four-time Academy Award nominee. Last year, she starred in the critically acclaimed film, "The Kids Are All Right."

Judge grants Sharon Stone lengthy stay away order

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP)—Sharon Stone has been granted a three-year restraining order against a man who police said was found in her home last month. Stone's attorney Evan Spiegel confirmed the order was granted Wednesday against Bradly Gooden, who a police detective described in court filings as delusional and possibly schizophrenic. Gooden remains on an involuntary psychiatric hold. Court records say he told police he believes he was given Stone's home by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Stone was not at home when the intruder was at her house and submitted a court declaration stating she was afraid of the 38-year-old man.

Lawyers for Jackson doc aim to talk to witnesses

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Attorneys for the doctor charged in Michael Jackson's death say they want to talk to nearly three dozen people described as hostile witnesses before an upcoming trial. Attorney J. Michael Flanagan told a judge Wednesday subpoenas had been issued for 35 witnesses, including all the members of Jackson's security team who were at the rented mansion where the singer died in June 2009. Houston-based cardiologist Dr. Conrad Murray has pleaded not guilty to involuntary manslaughter. The case reconvenes on March 16, when jury questionnaires will be discussed. Jury selection is scheduled to begin March 24, with opening statements scheduled for May 9.

Probst returning for 2 more 'Survivor' seasons

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jeff Probst won't be snuffing out his own torch any time soon. The "Survivor" host and executive producer will return for the next two seasons of the CBS reality TV competition, the network announced Wednesday. Probst, who has won three outstanding reality TV host Emmys for his role as Tribal Council moderator, has hosted the contest featuring castaways outwitting, outplaying and outlasting each other for $1 million since it debuted in 2000. The Nicaragua-set 22nd edition of the series, "Survivor: Redemption Island," is currently broadcast Wednesdays on CBS and added dismissed contestants battling to return to the game.

Attention paid to dying boy embitters his jealous aunt

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: My 3-year-old son is terminally ill. My sister-in-law, "Anita," has a son who is a year old. Anita always wants to compete for attention between the two boys. She makes nasty comments to family members, suggesting that her son is ignored while mine gets all the attention. No one says anything to her because they're afraid of her "blowups."

I don't know how much longer I can live with this. It is hard enough watching my son slip away a little more each day, but having to deal with this has pushed me over the edge. How can I handle a crazy in-law in this situation?

FALLING APART IN ILLINOIS

DEAR FALLING APART: Please accept my sympathy for the heartache you are experiencing. It's a shame that no one in the family is willing to point out to your volatile sister-in-law that the "annoyance" she's feeling is selfish and insensitive.

However, because no one is, it might be better that Anita be excluded from family gatherings in which she might feel her son is getting short shrift. And you should ask the person who is repeating her complaints to you to please stop sharing them. That should solve your problem.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am a married man, but not happily. I have been taking the kids on play dates with a neighbor woman who has been kind enough to meet with the children and doesn't seem to care too much that I'm a guy. As you can imagine, most women will not bother to befriend a man they know is married.

She has two kids who are close in age to mine. She is 19 years younger than I am and lives with her boyfriend.

I have fallen in love with her. I know I can't tell her, and I doubt she feels the same toward me. When we part, we do hug each other. It makes me feel fantastic, something I haven't experienced for a long time.

Should I continue getting together with her or should I avoid her? I feel both happy and sad when I see her because I realize she is basically out of reach.

PERPLEXED IN WISCONSIN

DEAR PERPLEXED: You feel lonely and isolated. It is understandable that you would be drawn to whatever warmth you can get, but this young woman is not the answer to your problem. Call a halt to this relationship so that you can work on your real problem—which is your unhappy marriage. Once you sort that out, everything else will fall into place. But continuing to see this woman as things are will only perpetuate your pain.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: A few months ago I ran into an old friend at the spa. She told me to call her and plan to get together with her. I have called her, but she never seems receptive to actually getting together. She called me once and invited me over to sit by the pool, but that's been the extent of it.

We're both married with children and work part time. I feel as though I'm bothering her when I call since she never makes an effort to return my calls or accept my invitations. However, when we run into each other at events or the spa, she's chatty and friendly.

Should I stop putting out the effort?

CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT

DEAR CAN'T: Yes. You've taken the first step, and the second. The ball is now in her court. Stop calling and let her make the next move. If she doesn't, she was probably making polite conversation when she suggested you get together.

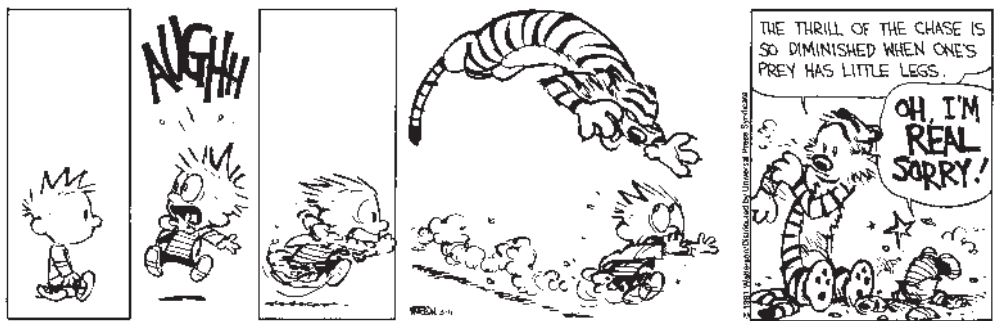
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

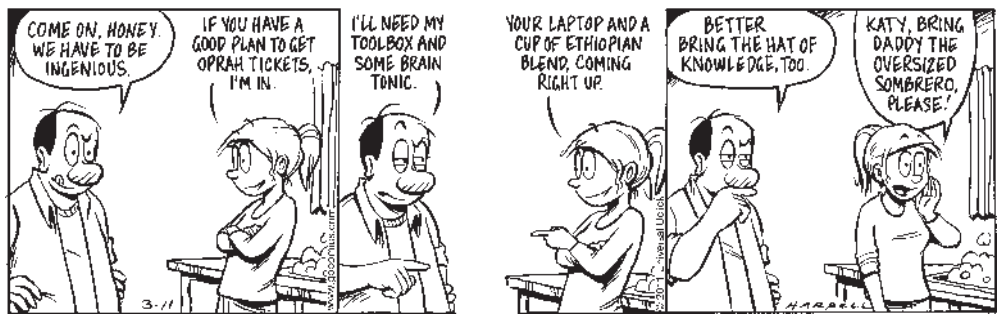


Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


COME ON, HONEY. WE HAVE TO BE INGENIOUS.
IF YOU HAVE A GOOD PLAN TO GET OPRAH TICKETS, I'M IN.
I'LL NEED MY TOOLBOX AND SOME BRAIN TONIC.
YOUR LAPTOP AND A CUP OF ETHIOPIAN BLEND, COMING RIGHT UP.
BETTER BRING THE HAT OF KNOWLEDGE, TOO.
KATY, BRING DADDY THE OVERSIZED SOMBRERO, PLEASE!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

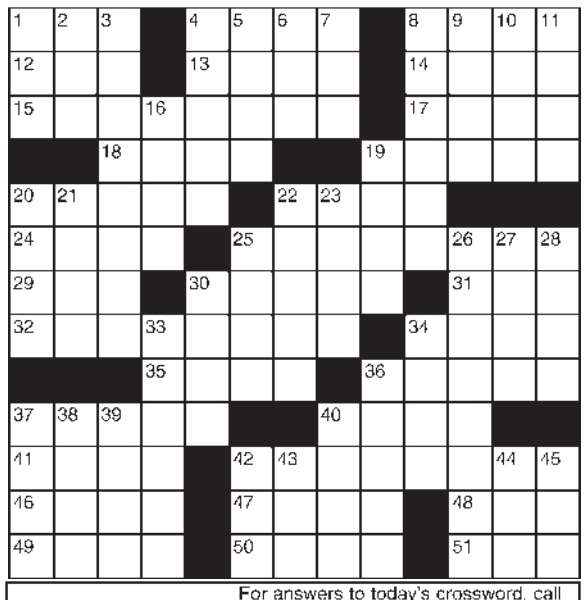
ACROSS
1 Triangular sail
4 Fermi's bit
8 Workout venues
12 Old French coin
13 Gaucho's weapon
14 Lothario
15 Meddler
17 14-Across' look
18 Ship-building wood
19 Erect
20 Juggler's props
22 Beard site
24 Agitate
25 Loaf keeper
29 Curry of NBC News
30 Times of prosperity
31 Einstein's birthplace
32 Popular TV school
34 Cruising
35 Greet the villain
36 Francis-co's farewell
37 Aqua-marine or emerald
40 Remove the lid
41 Skip
42 "Sex and the City" writer
46 Approach-ing
47 Wrinkly fruit
48 Witness
49 Apothe-cary measure
50 Suitable
51 Touch-down score

DOWN
1 Dubya's brother
2 Hosp. area
3 Very active
4 Mahmoud of the PLO
5 Stole
6 On in years
7 Possibly will
8 Earth
9 Boo-Boo's buddy
10 Think (over)
11 Burpee product
16 Scream
19 Prejudice
20 Actor Pitt
21 Top-notch
22 Irate
23 Half (Pref.)
25 Employer
26 Work
27 Bread spread
28 Grand opening day?
30 $50, in "Monop-oly"
33 Beat
34 Mideast gulf
36 Orchard pest
37 007
38 Eastern potentate
39 One European capital ...
40 ... and another
42 Annoy
43 Actor Tognazzi
44 Island souvenir
45 Super-man foe Luthor

Solution time: 25 mins.

N	A	S	A	■	A	I	L	■	S	M	O	G
E	B	O	N	■	P	R	O	■	P	A	P	A
W	E	L	D	■	N	E	O	■	E	R	S	T
S	I	O	O	G	E	■	S	I	N	G	■	■
■	■	■	R	E	A	L	E	S	T	A	T	E
R	E	A	R	M	■	E	L	M	■	R	O	Y
U	R	S	A	■	S	T	Y	■	W	E	R	E
H	I	S	■	D	O	E	■	T	O	T	E	S
R	E	A	L	N	U	M	B	E	R	■	■	■
■	■	S	O	A	P	■	U	N	K	I	N	D
A	L	S	O	■	C	B	S	■	I	D	E	A
L	O	I	N	■	O	O	H	■	N	O	R	M
P	U	N	Y	■	N	A	Y	■	G	L	O	P

Yesterday's answer 3-11



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99c per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Thora Birch, 29; Johnny Knoxville, 40; Terrence Howard, 42; Sam Donaldson, 77

Happy Birthday: Use your charm, wit and common sense to help you get ahead. Get facts and figures before you jump to conclusions and make a mistake. Your intuition will lead you astray when it comes to personal and emotional issues. Think before you act or you may offend someone you need on your side. Your numbers are 3, 11, 17, 20, 29, 37, 42

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Make a big splash. You may as well go for the biggest and the best, especially if it will encourage others to take note of what you are capable of doing. Now is not the time to hold back. Stand tall and proud. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Visit a destination that will reconnect you with a person and place that will help you resolve an uncertainty. It's difficult to move forward when you are holding on to the past. A revealed secret will put your mind at ease. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Offer love, friendship and honesty and you will avoid a dispute. Now is not the time to lend, borrow or to take on a joint financial venture. Keep your assets separate and in a safe place and you will have no regrets. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You'll be caught in the middle if you haven't been open and honest about where you stand on certain personal and professional issues. A lack of consistency will be mentioned if you don't firm up and move forward. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Mix and mingle, get involved in causes or events and, most of all, include someone you care about in your plans. You can make substantial changes to the way you live your life by focusing on what's important. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): It's your get up and go, your stamina and determination that will impress onlookers. Use your clout and your knowledge to persuade others to contribute to your cause. Don't sit back when you can make a difference. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Get out and have some fun. Sharing your thoughts with others will inspire you to do something creative or will spark an interest in making personal changes. You will discover information that will change the way you view physical and lifestyle alterations. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Work on your home and making the changes necessary to improve your lifestyle. Problems with your lover can easily be resolved if you discuss financial alterations that will free up cash and help you both feel less stress. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Not everyone will be upfront and honest with you. Ask questions to help you decipher whom you can trust. Protecting your personal information will help you avoid rumors that may hurt your current status. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Stick to what you know and do best. Rely on your past experience to get you through whatever you face now. Old goals can be revisited and commitments can be made. as long as you don't overspend or overdo in the process. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Keep things simple and watch out for anyone playing an emotional mind game with you. Pushy people must not be allowed to dictate what you can or cannot do. Let your charm buffer negativity. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): A problem with a neighbor or friend will develop if information has been withheld or rumors are being spread. Handle information with discretion. Be fully aware of any limitations that might be put on you should you give out false information. ✪✪

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			7	6				
		8			9			
	3			2		6		
3			5				7	
9		5		1		3		6
	1				3			5
		6		7			8	
			2			1		
				8	5			

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 3/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	3	8	1	4	9	7	5	2
2	1	9	3	5	7	6	8	4
7	4	5	8	6	2	1	9	3
3	8	6	9	2	1	5	4	7
4	7	2	5	3	8	9	6	1
5	9	1	6	7	4	2	3	8
9	6	7	2	8	3	4	1	5
8	5	4	7	1	6	3	2	9
1	2	3	4	9	5	8	7	6

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/10

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

FABULOUS FISH OF JAPAN'S SEAS Solution: 6 letters

R	B	A	A	S	W	B	C	O	K	H	O	T	S	K
T	E	U	M	A	E	S	O	F	T	I	S	U	N	S
E	Q	K	T	A	S	I	L	C	H	Q	S	I	L	H
A	S	E	C	T	Y	H	D	S	E	U	P	(B)	A	A
H	R	H	U	U	E	O	O	D	A	A	(L)	N	R	R
O	S	O	I	R	S	R	T	R	E	(U)	N	I	O	K
U	N	L	R	R	U	P	F	E	(E)	L	S	N	C	S
S	A	I	E	K	E	T	M	L	A	S	U	O	R	M
E	N	E	L	S	S	T	O	U	Y	G	I	B	A	A
G	F	D	S	A	R	O	O	T	L	F	U	R	B	E
S	R	I	O	R	H	O	O	K	D	A	I	R	S	R
N	I	C	N	C	E	K	M	N	O	N	R	S	U	T
A	G	S	S	S	Y	D	A	P	E	E	D	V	H	S
I	I	Y	B	O	G	S	N	S	N	O	O	G	A	L
L	D	P	E	N	I	N	S	U	L	A	L	G	A	E

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Algae, Aqua, Beach, Blue, Bonin, Butterfly fish, Coast, Cold, Coral, Crabs, Deep, Eddies, Eels, Fins, Frigid, Goby, Herring, Kuroshio, Lagoons, Larvae, Lumpsucker, Marine, Morsels, Ocean, Okhotsk, Peninsula, Pink, Rausu, Sakhalin, Sand, School, Sharks, Shiretoko, Shores, Snail, Snout, Soft, Streams, Suruga, Teahouse, Tokyo, Toyama, Undersea, Water

Yesterday's Answer: Comedian

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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JCT I BUILDING - SUSUPE
For inquiry please call 235-8973

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
HUMAN RESOURCES

Job Vacancy Announcement
Job Vacancy No. 11-020

Opening Date: Friday, 03/04/11 Closing Date: Friday, 03/18/11

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT
(CASHIER & CUSTOMER SERVICE)

DUTIES: Under the overall supervision of the division manager or his/her designee, the incumbent's duties and responsibilities are as follows: Responsible for performing entry level, fiscal support and related customer service activities. Performs a wide variety of routine fiscal support activities to include: receiving and processing payments; issuing receipts; preparing daily deposit slips; opening new accounts; closing credit cards; verifying and processing payroll; running automatic credit card payments; posting invoices; preparing checks; preparing refunds; and, preparing charge vouchers. Generates and distributes routine reports. Maintains filing systems. Performs customer service activities to include assisting customers with applications, payments and in settling disputes. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

LOCATION: Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Tinian

SALARY: $11,036.00 - $12,263.00 per annum

POSITIONS: Two.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: High School Diploma, or G.E.D., plus zero to three years of related customer service or bookkeeping experience. Knowledge of: Basic bookkeeping principles; Office procedures, methods, and equipment; Keyboarding techniques; Basic mathematical concepts; Customer service principles; Cash handling and bank deposit procedures. Skill in: Providing customer service; Performing basic mathematical calculations; Maintaining records; Keyboarding; Using standard office equipment; Tabulating, recording, and balancing transactions; Preparing routine reports; Using a computer and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. APPLICANTS MAY BE TESTED.

Applications may be picked up at the Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building or the Tinian and Rota Administration Office. Failure to provide required documents listed on the application will be grounds for disqualification.

CUC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
HUMAN RESOURCES

Job Vacancy Announcement
Job Vacancy No. 11-021

Opening Date: Friday, 03/04/11 Closing Date: Friday, 03/18/11

TRADES ASSISTANT
(WATER & METERING)

DUTIES: Under the overall supervision of the division manager or his/her designee, the incumbent's duties and responsibilities are as follows: Assists with installations, repairs and general maintenance in service area assigned. Performs preventative maintenance on equipment in service area assigned. Assists with various construction related duties in service area assigned. Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies. Cleans up, gathers and puts away equipment, materials and supplies for activities/projects. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level. Assisting in operating water main valves; Assisting in routing wells; Taking reservoir level and water level readings; Checking on customer complaints by checking for disconnects or leakage; Bleeding fire hydrants; Assisting in checking for leaks in water lines; Assisting in repairing water lines; Assisting in monitoring chlorine gas in the water system; Assisting in maintaining and repairing motors, pumps and other related equipment; Gathering water samples; Assisting in installing and/or replacing water meters; Operating and maintaining water plant facilities; Checking and maintaining vehicles; Inventorying materials and supplies. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

LOCATION: Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Tinian

SALARY: $11,775.00 - $13,631.00 per annum

POSITIONS: Two.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: High School Diploma, or G.E.D Knowledge of: Basic preventative maintenance principles; Basic mathematics. Skill in: Performing preventative maintenance; Performing basic maintenance; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must have a valid CNMI Driver's License. APPLICANTS MAY BE TESTED.

Applications may be picked up at the Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building or the Tinian and Rota Administration Office. Failure to provide required documents listed on the application will be grounds for disqualification.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
HUMAN RESOURCES

Job Vacancy Announcement
Job Vacancy No. 11-022

Opening Date: Friday, 03/04/11 Closing Date: Friday, 03/18/11

WAREHOUSE ASSISTANT

DUTIES: Under the overall supervision of the Warehouse Manager or his/her designee, the incumbent's duties and responsibilities are as follows: Responsible for performing manual labor in the receiving, shipping, and distribution of materials. Prepares materials for issuing against a pick list; ensures correctness of materials. Prepares, packs and delivers requested materials to respective divisions. Verifies quantities and quality of materials received against shipping documents. Prepares receiving documents on returned, salvaged or scraped materials; stacks materials in designated areas. Maintains warehouse and surrounding areas ensuring orderliness of worksite. Conducts monthly inventory counts and spot checks. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

LOCATION: Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, SAIPAN

SALARY: $11,036.00 - $12,263.00 per annum

POSITIONS: Two.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: High School Diploma, or G.E.D. Knowledge of: Office machines; Basic mathematics; Safety procedures. Skill in: Operating office equipment; Operating warehouse equipment such as forklifts and pallet jacks; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. APPLICANTS MAY BE TESTED.

Applications may be picked up at the Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building or the Tinian and Rota Administration Office. Failure to provide required documents listed on the application will be grounds for disqualification.

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RFP11-SOF-067

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 05, 2011 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

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THE SCOPE OF WORK WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER MARCH 15, 2011 AT THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF FINANCE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN.

ALL QUESTIONS CONCERNING THIS PROPOSAL SHALL BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING AND MUST BE RECEIVED BY **4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME MARCH 25, 2011**. QUESTIONS MAY BE EITHER SUBMITTED VIA FACSIMILE (670) 664-1115; MAIL OR PERSONAL DELIVERY AND MUST BE ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY OF FINANCE, P.O. BOX 5234 CHRB, SAIPAN, MP 96950.

/s/ **LARRISA C. LARSON**
ACTING SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

/s/ **ELOY S. INOS**
ACTING GOVERNOR

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CAKE DECORATOR

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17" Monitor – FOR SALE
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Anaks Ocean View Hill Saipan

Owner is selling two, 2BR 1Bth living & separate kitchen, resort style residential units. Drinkable tap water, in house emergency generator, spacious swimming pool, 24 hours guarded security. Currently the units are let, perfect for cash flow investment. $120,000 or better offer. For more details, send your inquiry to anaks@pticom.com

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Minimum requirements:
1. **U.S. citizen or green card;**
2. **Driver's license;**
3. **Ability to speak English;**
4. **Police clearance;**
5. **References.**

For interview please call Maya at 233-0081

Hornets stun Mavericks with big finish, 92-85

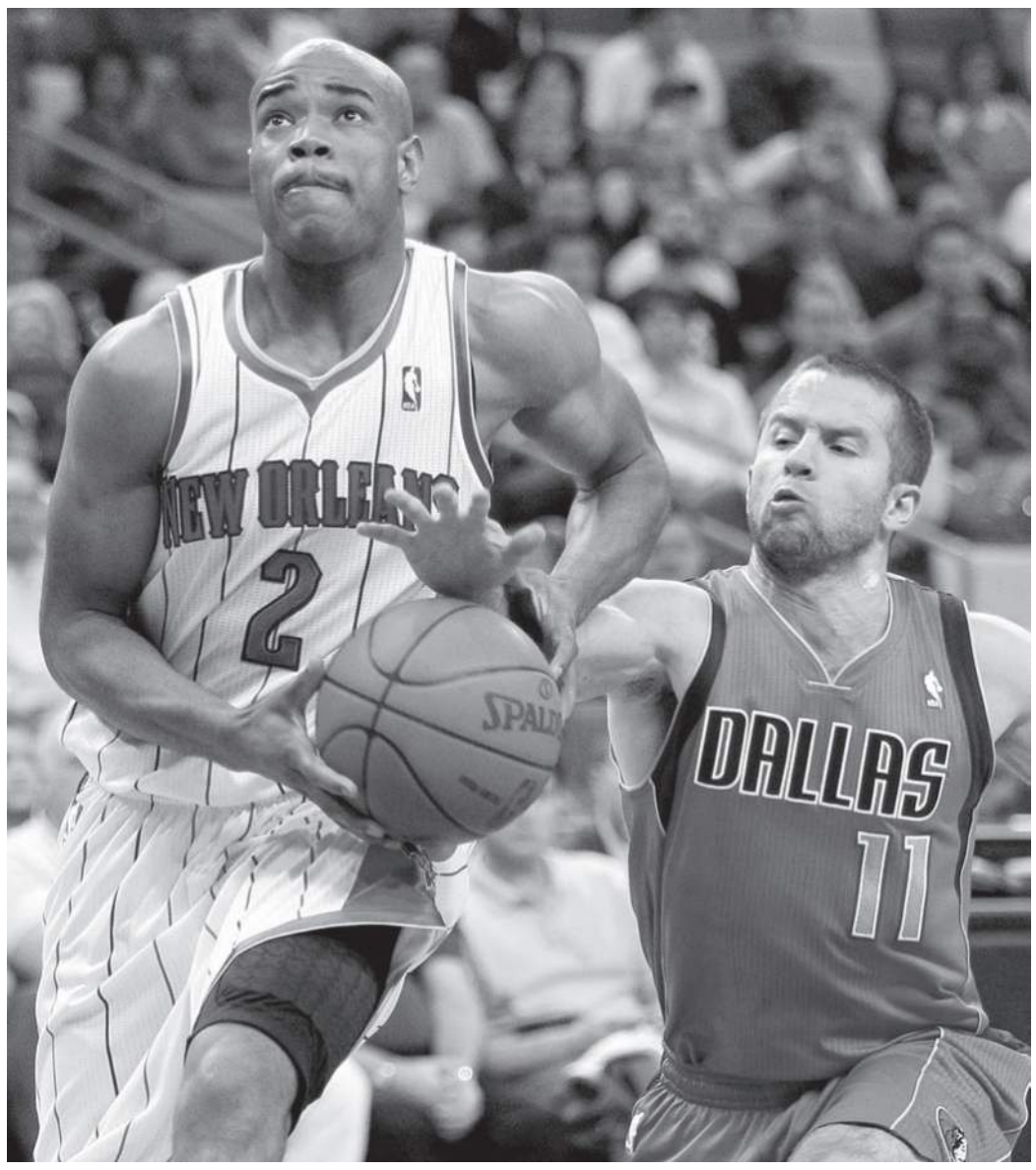
NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Jarrett Jack hit three free throws to complete an unlikely 8-0 New Orleans run inside the final 1:13, as the Hornets completed a stunning late 110-108 win over Dallas Mavericks in the NBA on Wednesday.

The Hornets trailed 92-85, then Marco Belinelli hit a 3 and Emeka Okafor put back Belinelli's missed reverse layup.

Dallas' Tyson Chandler, who had 16 points and 13 rebounds in his return from a sprained ankle, missed two free throws with 17 seconds to go. leaving the game up for grabs.

Jason Kidd fouled Jack on a 3-point attempt, setting up Jack's decisive free throws with 8.4 seconds left. Jack finished with 21 points.

Dallas still had one more chance to win it, but for the second time in New Orleans this season, Dirk Nowitzki was unable to convert.



AP

New Orleans Hornets point guard Jarrett Jack (2) goes up for a shot as Dallas Mavericks guard Jose Juan Barea, of Puerto Rico, attempts to strip the ball in the first half of an NBA basketball game in New Orleans, Wednesday, March 9, 2011.

Spurs 111, Pistons 104

In San Antonio, the hosts bounced back from a humbling loss by beating Detroit.

Tony Parker scored 23 points and Tim Duncan—who matched a career low with two points in a blowout loss to the Los Angeles Lakers on Sunday —finished with 15 points and 12 rebounds in 31 minutes.

Richard Hamilton led the Pistons with 20 points off the bench.

The Spurs hit their first 14 shots and finished with a season-high 40 points in the first quarter to take a 14-point lead. San Antonio scored just 37 points in the first half in Sunday's loss.

Thunder 110, 76ers 105, OT

In Philadelphia, Kevin Durant had 34 points and 16 rebounds to lead Oklahoma City over Philadelphia.

Russell Westbrook added 27 points and 12 assists for the Thunder.

Durant erased a five-point deficit with a minute left in regulation, hitting a runner and a 3-pointer that sent the game into overtime. The Sixers scored only two baskets in the extra 5 minutes.

Jrue Holiday and Lou Williams each scored 22 points for the Sixers.

Durant, the NBA's leading scorer, was 13 of 26 from the field and all 16 boards were defensive ones.

Bulls 101, Bobcats 84

In Charlotte, Chicago pulled away in the fourth quarter to beat Charlotte, a victory dimmed by Carlos Boozer's leg injury.

Derrick Rose and Kyle Korver scored 20 points, with Korver scoring 12 in the final period for the Bulls, who won for the 11th time in 13 games and expanded their hold on second place in the Eastern Conference to 2 1/2 games over slumping Miami.

Boozer limped off late in the game after his left leg bent awkwardly on a flagrant foul by Kwame Brown and didn't return.

Gerald Henderson had 20 points and eight assists for the Bobcats, who suffered their sixth straight loss.

Clippers 108, Celtics 103

In Boston, Los Angeles withstood a late Boston surge for its fourth straight win despite a mediocre performance by Blake Griffin.

Mo Williams scored 28 points in his highest haul since being traded by Cleveland. DeAndre Jordan had 21 points for the Clippers.

The Celtics were led by Ray Allen with 23 points, but lost for the first time in six games.

Knicks 110, Grizzlies 108

In Memphis, Carmelo Anthony made a 19-footer with less than a second left to allow New York to resist a late Memphis rally.

The winning shot by Anthony, who finished with 31 points, came after Zach Randolph's three-point play with 14 seconds remaining pulled Memphis even.

Memphis had one more chance after Anthony's basket, but an alley-oop attempt to Darrell Arthur was broken up at the basket, giving the Knicks their third straight win and strengthening their hold on the sixth playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

Amare Stoudemire added 26 points for the Knicks.

Tony Allen led Memphis with 22 points, missing only one of his eight shots.

Magic 106, Kings 102

In Sacramento, Jameer Nelson scored 12 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter to lift Orlando over Sacramento.

Dwight Howard returned from a one-game suspension to have 16 points and 15 rebounds but fouled out late for the Magic, who overcome an eight-point deficit and open a five-game road trip with a much-needed victory.

DeMarcus Cousins had 29 points for the Kings, who upset the Magic earlier this season but collapsed late in this one.

Jazz 96, Raptors 94

In Toronto, Al Jefferson scored 34 points, including a game-winning layup at the buzzer, as Utah rallied from a 14-point deficit to beat Toronto for the 12th straight time.

C.J. Miles and Devin Harris each scored 23 points for Utah.

DeMar DeRozan scored 17 points as Toronto lost for the fifth time in six games.

Nets 94, Warriors 90

In Newark, New Jersey, Brook Lopez had 26 points and 10 rebounds, and made two clinching free throws with 3.3 seconds left as New Jersey beat Golden State for its first three-game winning streak in two years.

Anthony Morrow added 22 points for the Nets.

David Lee had 17 points and 10 rebounds for the Warriors.

Timberwolves 101, Pacers 75

In Minneapolis, Kevin Love recorded his 52nd double-double in a row to surpass Moses Malone for the longest such streak since the ABA and NBA merged in 1976, and Minnesota downed free-falling Indiana.

Love overcame a bruised left knee to put up 16 points and 21 rebounds in just 27 minutes to help the Timberwolves win for just the 16th time this season. Love reached the double-double with just under seven minutes to play in the first half.

Tyler Hansbrough scored 21 points for the Pacers, who shot a season-low 29 percent to lose their fifth straight game.

Bucks 110, Cavaliers 90

In Milwaukee, Brandon Jennings and Earl Boykins each scored 18 points to lead Milwaukee over Cleveland.

Boykins had all of his points in the first half, then Jennings scored 14 in the third quarter as Milwaukee enjoyed its second blowout in two days, thanks to 55.1 percent shooting.

Samardo Samuels scored 11 of his 15 points in the first quarter for Cleveland, which lost for the fifth time in six games.

Lakers' Jackson says burden not easy on Heat

MIAMI (AP)—It has come to this: Even Phil Jackson is offering a sympathetic word to the reeling Miami Heat.

The coach of the two-time defending champion Los Angeles Lakers has taken plenty of jabs at the Heat in recent months, over everything from how this roster was put together, Erik Spoelstra's job security, and this week the already-infamous episode dubbed "Crygate."

So on Wednesday, with the Heat in a five-game losing streak, Jackson stood on their home floor and had ample opportunity to poke Miami again.

He went the other way instead.

"From what I've heard, this team feels like they're being looked at to lose, or they've been hoped at to lose," Jackson said before the Lakers practiced for their Thursday game in Miami. "I know locally that can't stand true, but nationally, if that's the case, it's a burden to carry. And then those games that are dramatic become bigger than they really should be."

That certainly seems to be the case around Miami these days.

Not even two weeks ago, the Heat were in a virtual tie with Boston for the top spot in the Eastern Conference. Miami hasn't won since, falling to third in the East, 4 1/2 games behind the Celtics and two games behind the Chicago Bulls. Even the No. 3 seed in the East playoffs isn't exactly assured, with Orlando starting play Wednesday three games behind the Heat.

It's a freefall, and the Heat know that when they lose games, most of the NBA is thrilled. So Wednesday's practice wasn't about licking wounds, Spoelstra said. The Heat needed to simply get back to work.

"Less talk, more action," Spoelstra said.

Oh, there was plenty of talking as well.

Miami lost to Portland 105-96 on Tuesday night, after which Wade suggested he'd like to see rotation changes and Bosh insisted he would be demanding the ball more often down low. And on Wednesday, those themes hadn't changed much: Spoelstra took the rare step of immediately watching Tuesday's game in his office afterward, and Bosh was planning to chat with Wade and James.

"We're all in this together, but at the end of the day, we know what people are going to be looking at," Bosh said. "And we know who's going to get the finger pointed at them first. And rightfully so - we asked for this, coming together, and we knew that coming into the situation. We take the responsibility of it. It is what it is, no matter what we say, no matter what we do."

Lakers forward Lamar Odom said the Heat plight is one of the biggest stories in sports right now. Considering who was offering opinions on the Heat a few miles away on Wednesday, he may be right.

Tiger Woods—with his own winless drought to deal with—weighed in on the state of the Heat from nearby Doral, where he'll play in this week's World Golf Championships-Cadillac Championship.

"They are trying to jell and obviously they are adding pieces," Woods said. "I mean, as soon as they become more cohesive, they add (Mike) Bibby, so it's going to take a little time. They have 18, 19 games left in the season, somewhere around there. They have plenty of time to turn it around and get rolling for the playoffs."

The Lakers head into Thursday as the league's hottest team, winners of eight straight.

But even the champs have had their issues at times this season, mild ones anyway, with a four-game slide and a pair of three-game losing streaks on their resume.

That last three-game slump ended with the embarrassing pre-All-Star-break loss in Cleveland. The Lakers haven't lost since, with five of their eight victories since the break ended coming by double digits.

"The difference between us is that we all know what our roles are," Lakers guard Kobe Bryant said. "They're still trying to figure that out."

Clearly, that's the case. Bibby was added essentially in place of Carlos Arroyo at point guard. James Jones, Eddie House and Zydrunas Ilgauskas have largely fallen out of the rotation at times, and Miami's bench is struggling—getting outscored 41-8 by the Trail Blazers and a stunning 149-51 in the last four games.

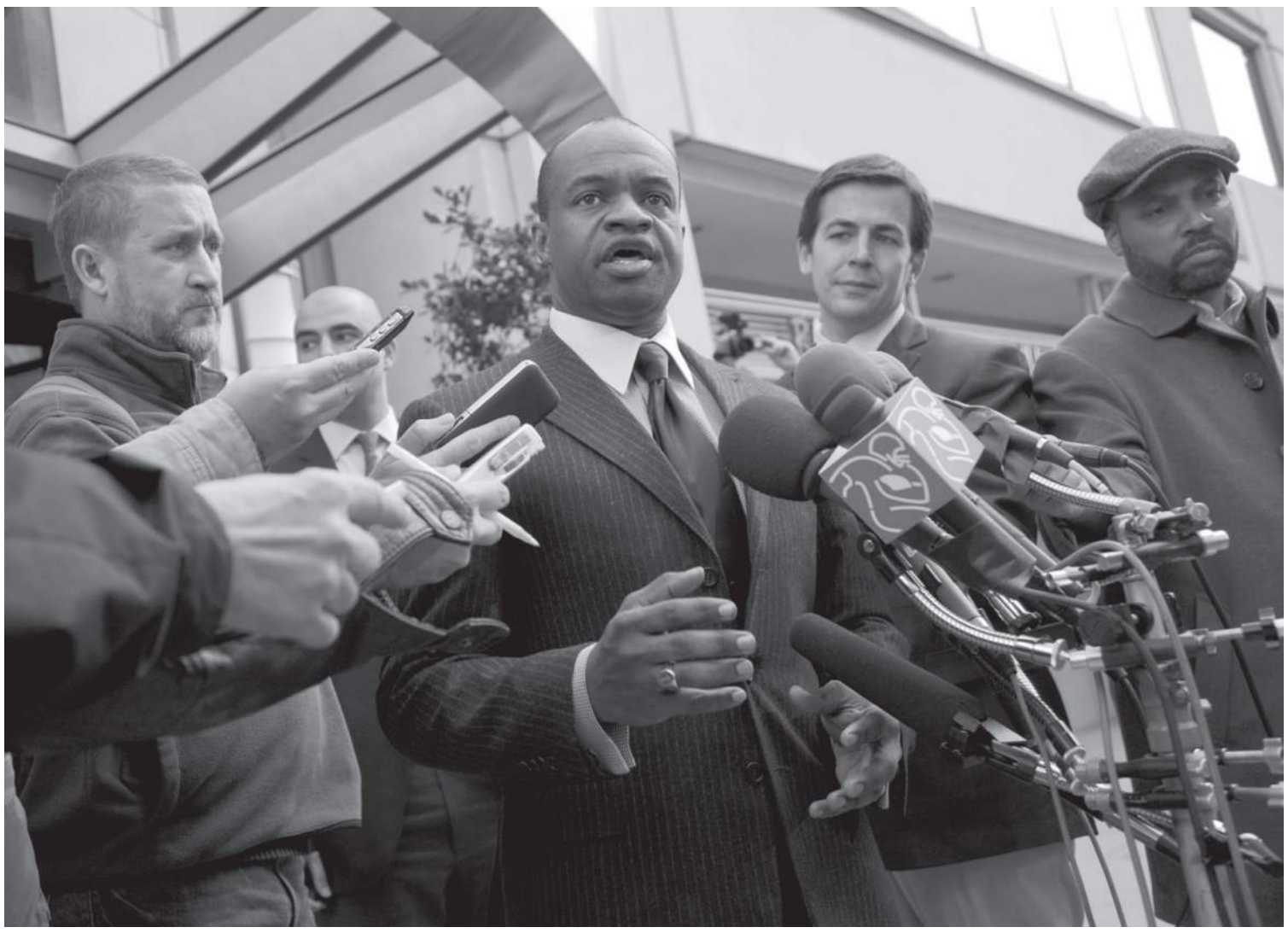
"One thing for sure about this team, we won't go down without a fight," Ilgauskas said. "And we'll keep on fighting."

Even Jackson doesn't doubt that one.

"We always say, the close games that you lose, the ones that are really dramatic like that, they'll make up for somewhere along the line," Jackson said. "Somewhere along the line, they might do that. They might be in the playoffs."

And that was about as close Jackson came to tweaking the Heat all day.

Money matters: NFL, union wrangle publicly on CBA



NFLPA Executive Director DeMaurice Smith gestures during a news conference about labor talks, Friday, March 4, 2011, in Washington. AP

WASHINGTON (AP)—The NFL's willingness to reduce the amount of extra money owners want up front—from $1 billion to $800 million—isn't enough to produce a new labor deal, the head of the players' union said Wednesday, insisting that the league hasn't offered to turn over enough financial data.

Both sides spoke much more openly about money matters Wednesday than they have since they entered mediation Feb. 18. With the collective bargaining agreement set to expire Friday, they clearly are far apart on how to divide more than $9 billion in annual revenues.

On his way into the 14th session at the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, NFL lead negotiator Jeff Pash said the issue of financial transparency—a key sticking point—"really should be behind us."

"We've made more information available in the course of this negotiation than has ever been made available in decades of collective bargaining with the NFLPA," Pash said. "Far more information. And we've offered to make even more information (available), including information that we do not disclose to our own clubs."

But when NFL Players Association executive director DeMaurice Smith left for the day after about eight hours of talks, he called the data the NFL offered to provide "utterly meaningless." It was rejected, the union said, because it didn't include material requested nearly two years ago by Smith in a letter to Commissioner Roger Goodell.

"Has it gotten everything it wants? Evidently not. Have we offered to provide more? Absolutely," Pash said Wednesday evening. "And is it a subject that we're prepared to discuss? Absolutely."

Under the old CBA, owners received an immediate $1 billion for operating expenses before splitting remaining revenues with players; at the outset of negotiations, the NFL sought an additional $1 billion off the top.

"Just to be absolutely clear, the information that was offered wasn't what we asked for," Smith said, "and, according to our investment bankers and advisers, they told us that information would be utterly meaningless in determining whether to write an $800 million check to the National Football League" in each year of a new CBA.

"We have requested access to fully audited financial statements since May 2009," Smith said. "We believe that is the appropriate information to analyze the league's request to write a multibillion check to the owners."

In a letter dated May 18, 2009—a copy of which was obtained Wednesday by The Associated Press—Smith asked Goodell to "provide audited financial statements concerning the operations of the 32 clubs and the league."

Smith attached a list of 10 categories of information he sought, including:

■ total operating income;

■ total operating expenses, such as player costs, team expenses, sales and marketing expenses, game expenses, salaries/payments to owners;

■ profit from operations;

■ net income;

■ cash and investment assets.

In the letter, Smith noted the owners' push to expand the regular season from 16 games to 18 as one reason "this information is critical in understanding the fair 'cost/compensation' model for players and teams."

In Minneapolis, meanwhile, the NFLPA asked the federal judge, who ruled in its favor in a case involving TV contracts, to release information that the NFL wants kept confidential. U.S. District Court judge David Doty sided with the players last week, saying the league illegally set up $4 billion in payments from networks - money the union argued was collected to fund a lockout.

Wednesday's move seemed to be reminder to the league of two important points—the possibility of legal action if no new CBA is reached, and the union's insistence on transparency.

The NFLPA said in its filing that the NFL hasn't explained why material should be sealed and that the league hasn't cooperated with the union's attempt to propose limited redactions to protect third-party information only.

"The NFL cannot be permitted to comment publicly about these proceedings and then turn around to embrace a cloak of confidentiality that thwarts the public's right to know," union lawyers wrote.

The league said it would respond to the filing.

In Washington, Pash didn't reveal any specifics of the league's offer of financial information. But a person familiar with the negotiations told the AP that the NFL offered to turn over five years of league-wide profitability data to the union.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because mediator George Cohen told participants not to publicly discuss details.

According to the person who spoke to the AP, the NFL's proposal to the union included:

-audited league-wide profitability data with dollar figures from 2005-09 that wouldn't show information on a club-by-club basis;

-the number of teams that have seen a shift in profitability in that span;

-an independent auditor to examine the data.

As far back as 2009, Smith told Goodell: "As you know, the NFLPA does not have access to a wide range of information that is directly relevant to the contention that the current CBA fails to address the owners' concerns."

"For example," the letter said, "the NFL and the teams do not provide the NFLPA with their audited financial statements detailing the profit (loss) information for the teams. We also lack the information to discern the profits (losses) per regular season games, the profit per team per playoff game and other fixed financial non-player costs."

The CBA dates to 2006, but owners exercised an opt-out clause in 2008. The deal was set to expire last week, before two extensions pushed the cutoff to the end of Friday.

Goodell was joined by three members of the owners' 10-person labor committee: Art Rooney II of the Pittsburgh Steelers, John Mara of the New York Giants, and Clark Hunt of the Kansas City Chiefs. More owners are expected to attend on Thursday.

If a deal isn't reached by Friday, the sides could agree to another extension. Or talks could break off, leading to, possibly, a lockout by owners or antitrust lawsuits by players.

"The commissioner said 'talking is better than litigating.' Talking is better than, you know, going to DEFCON 3 or whatever term I've heard thrown around," Pash said. "So let's keep at it."

NFL BRIEFS

Running back Tiki Barber plans to return to NFL

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—After four years in retirement, former New York Giants running back Tiki Barber is looking to get back into the NFL. It won't be with the Giants, though. The Giants acknowledged on Tuesday that the 35-year-old Barber has asked to be taken off the reserve-retirement list and that they will release him once the league allows it. Teams cannot make roster moves during the current extension of the CBA talks. Barber is the Giants' career rushing leader with 10,449 yards, 22nd best in league history. SI.com first reported that Barber filed paperwork with the NFL to end his retirement. "We wish Tiki nothing but the best, and when we are able to make the transaction, we will release him from our reserve-retired list," the Giants said. Barber retired after the 2006 season, the year before the Giants' stunning Super Bowl win over the previously undefeated New England Patriots. He had two years left on his contract when he left the game for a job in television, so the Giants still hold his rights. Barber his second career with NBC fizzled and he did not help himself with New York metropolitan area fans, criticizing coach Tom Coughlin and former teammate Eli Manning, saying the quarterback lacked some leadership skills. Barber was booed by fans this past season when Giants unveiled their ring of honor in their new $1.6 billion stadium. In its report, SI.com said Barber reportedly left his wife of 11 years, Ginny, for 23-year-old Traci Johnson, a former NBC intern. Ginny was eight months pregnant at the time. Soon after, NBC cited its morals clause and terminated Barber's contract, which reportedly paid him more than $300,000 per year. In June 2010, the New York Post reported Barber was broke and couldn't pay his divorce settlement with his ex-wife.

Union asks judge to unseal records in NFL TV case

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The NFL players' union has asked the federal judge who ruled in its favor on a TV revenue dispute to release information from the case that the NFL wants kept confidential. Last week, Judge David Doty sided with the players, ruling the league illegally secured $4 billion from TV contracts—money that players argue was collected to fund a lockout. On Wednesday, lawyers for the NFL Players Association filed a motion to unseal evidence and testimony from the broadcast revenues proceedings in U.S. District Court in Minneapolis. They wrote "such openness" is necessary to provide context that "will be the basis for rulings to come." The NFLPA argued in the filing that the NFL hasn't explained why the material should be sealed and that the league hasn't cooperated with the union's attempt to propose limited redactions to protect third-party information only. "The NFL cannot be permitted to comment publicly about these proceedings and then turn around to embrace a cloak of confidentiality that thwarts the public's right to know," union lawyers wrote in the memorandum. "The NFL bears the burden of showing the need to keep the underlying record sealed. Despite the opportunity, no such showing has been made." In Wednesday's motion, union lawyers wrote the NFL must respond to the motion within seven days per a directive from Doty's chambers. Asked to comment, NFL spokesman Greg Aiello wrote in an e-mail to The Associated Press: "We will respond to that filing in due course."

Broncos player's attorney wants hearing closed

DENVER (AP)—An attorney for Perrish Cox, a Denver Broncos cornerback charged with sexual assault, is asking a judge to hold a court hearing in secret because allowing the public and media to attend could taint a jury. The Denver Post, The Associated Press and the New York Times oppose the move. Most of the documents in the case have been sealed, including an affidavit containing details of the allegations that led to Cox's arrest on Dec. 9. The alleged assault happened Sept. 6. The Denver Post first obtained a copy of the request filed Tuesday by attorney Harvey A. Steinberg. Steinberg argues that allowing the public and media to attend the preliminary hearing, where authorities will provide a judge details of the evidence, would affect Cox's right to a fair trial.

Woods' playing schedule limited by time with kids

DORAL, Fla. (AP)—Tiger Woods is hitting some of his best shots when no one is watching.

That's typically the case when Woods tries to build a new golf swing, and his third major swing change is no exception. Put him on the practice range at home in Isleworth and he says he goes through long stretches of hitting the ball how he wants. Put him inside the ropes, with a scorecard in hand and TV cameras in the towers, and he has stretches of looking ordinary.

But there is one big difference this time around.

Woods isn't playing very much.

When he tees it up Thursday in the Cadillac Championship at Doral, it will be only his 10th competitive round of the year, an unusually low number with the Masters around the corner. Woods talks about needing more competition, and most would agree that would speed along the process of revamping his swing. It also leads to a natural question.

Why not play more tournaments?

"Because I have a family. I'm divorced," Woods replied solemnly. "If you've been divorced with kids, then you would understand."

It spoke to a personal life that remains as much a work in progress as his golf swing.

AP

Tiger Woods chips onto the 12th green during practice for the Cadillac Championship golf tournament in Doral, Fla., Wednesday, March 9, 2011.

There was speculation after Woods lost in the first round of the Match Play Championship that he would play the Honda Classic, especially since he is close to moving to south Florida. But that was his time with his 3 1/2-year-old daughter and 1-year-old son as part of the "shared parenting" with ex-wife Elin. There are no plans to play next week at Innisbrook, either.

Woods can't expect any sympathy for a situation he created through serial adultery. Even so, his playing schedule reflects that he's having to change more than his swing.

When he went through his first big overhaul under Butch Harmon after the 1997 season, Woods played 17 rounds before the Florida swing. At the start of 2004 under Hank Haney, he played 22 rounds leading to Florida, the traditional start of the road to the Masters.

This year, he has played nine rounds in competition.

Woods started his season at Torrey Pines with four rounds, only two of them under par. Two weeks later he was off to Dubai, where he was in contention until a 75 on the wind-blown final day. After another two-week break came the Match Play Championship, where he lost in the opening round to Thomas Bjorn.

There is no cut at this World Golf Championship, so he is guaranteed four rounds this week.

It starts Thursday on the Blue Monster, a course where he has won three times and never finished out of the top 10 in four other appearances. That means nothing anymore, for Woods had never finished out of the top 10 at either Torrey Pines and Dubai until this year.

Woods will be in familiar company, which will bring him even more attention.

Because tournament officials relied on the world ranking to determine the groups, Woods will spend the first two days with Phil Mickelson, his fiercest rival, and Graeme McDowell, who in December rallied from four shots behind in the final round to beat Woods in a playoff at the Chevron World Challenge.

Not since the 2007 Deutsche Bank Championship have Woods and Mickelson played in the same group for the early rounds. What's strange about this occasion is their form. Woods has gone nearly 16 months without winning, the longest stretch of his career. Mickelson has not won since the Masters last year.

Who could have guessed golf's two best players of their generation would have one win between them in the last year?

And it doesn't sound as though Woods is expecting much this week.

"I've been through periods in my career where I have not won and I've struggled before," he said. "When you're making a change with the game and change instructors, it takes a little time. Trust me, we have been working on it. As I said, I've shown signs. Unfortunately, it's in spurts and is not consistent. It has not been for 72 holes yet, so, we need to get to that point."

After playing nine holes on Tuesday—including three balls in the water on the 18th hole—he talked about changing everything about his game, all the way down to how he releases the putter.

"You just can't have one swing and not have another," he said. "They're all interrelated. It's just something I've had to change, and you know, it takes time."

And most of that time is spent on the range, not at tournaments.

Lee Westwood, who lost his No. 1 ranking to Martin Kaymer two weeks ago, can understand the feeling. Westwood once was No. 4 in the world until he went into a deep slump that dropped him as low as No. 253.

He wasn't surprised when Woods did not play the Honda Classic last week, even for reasons other than his children.

"When I went through a bad patch, it was a juggling act whether to stay at home and practice and work on your game—because you get more done—or to go out and play and risk maybe not playing well and taking another confidence knock," Westwood said. "So it's very much in situations like that up to the individual.

"Tiger has got to do what he feels is right, not what everybody else feels is right."

Meanwhile, another World Golf Championship in on the line. Woods used to own these events, winning 16 out of the first 30. Ernie Els is the defending champion, having held off fellow South African Charl Schwartzel a year ago.

Els spoke about the young players who are thriving now, and don't have the emotional baggage of facing a decade of Woods at his best.

"I don't think they will ever appreciate how good Tiger was back then," Els said. "He could do it again. He's just got to sort out the new swing again. He's so mentally strong that he could well dominate again. But at that level, who knows?"

CWGA March tourney this Saturday

The CNMI Women's Golf Association will hold its March tournament this Saturday at Laolao Bay Golf Resort's west course. Show time is set for 11:30am with tee off at 12:30pm.

In addition, Saturday's event marks the CWGA's final monthly event before its 3rd Annual CWGA two-day Tournament set for April 9-10 where lots of prizes are up for grabs for the Top 3 total gross and net score place finishers and the Top 10 overall point system winners.

Shiori Onoue is the current frontrunner in the CWGA point system with 91. Noriko Togawa (80), Grace Wang (76), Bobbie Guerrero (75), Seon He Jeong (74), Sherlyn Jones (72), Delores Yamagishi (70), Yuko Togawa (69), Jeong Ye Su (53), Masayo Miyamoto (51), and Kyung Ran Seo (51) round out the Top 10; there is a two-way tie for 10th place of the 28-member field.

Last year, Yuko Togawa won first place in the final points standings with 111 over the 12-month period. She finished ahead of Chang Eun Ae (104), Kim Yang (99), Onoue (91), Yamagishi (85), Ching Lin Wang (77), Noriko Togawa (76), Ukita Terue (68), Terry Tudela (62) and Bennet Seman (62).

Moreover, Noriko Togawa won first place last year in the total gross category with a 164, ahead of Yuko Togawa (165), Onoue (167), Grace Wang (168) and Lorraine Babauta (169), while Myamoto took last year's net score honors with a 149 ahead of Kim Yang (150), Tudela (150), Kyung Ran Seo (152), and Terue (152)

Established in March 2007, CWGA is a nonprofit organization founded to promote, encourage, and introduce women to the sport of golf in the CNMI.

Its organizational goals consist of promoting civic and community interest in golf; establishing and encouraging competition and good sportsmanship; promoting and providing social functions of its members and families; promoting youth golf activities; and doing all things necessary and proper to accomplish its purpose and intentions.

CWGA members also pledge to abide by a set of values that will further enrich a golfer's performance, attitude and conduct. Such values were adopted from the USA Junior Golf Association. They include perseverance, sportsmanship, respect, honesty, judgment, responsibility, reliance, courtesy and sincerity.

For more information about the CWGA, contact Noriko Togawa at 287-0027, Lou Kim at 483-5255, Terry Tudela at 483-1761, Lorraine Babauta at 287-0621 or Bennet Seman at 483-0126. ***(Walter Cepeda-Sutherland)***

ATALIG

From Page 36

McDonald's Perry Tenorio, 6-for-12 and 0.500 make up the Top 13.

Cedric Camacho, meanwhile, is tops in RBIs after the Enforcers slugger collected eight ahead of second-ranked Rengiil's six.

Henry Lizama's 11 runs scored tops the league, ahead of the Enforcers' Shakobe Rangamar and Rengiil who have 10 runs apiece.

Tenorio's two homeruns top a six-way tie for second place in the category, while Henry Lizama's three triples lead the league ahead of Cedric Camacho and Franklyn Lizama's two apiece.

Rengiil leads the league in doubles with four, ahead of Jonathan Camacho's three.

Comets pitcher Erik Cruz so far leads the league in strikeouts with 33, ahead of Atalig (29), Delos Santos (29), Joyner (29), and the Falcons' Logan Martin (25).

The Major League's batting statistics were formulated based on at least nine at bats; pitching statistics were based on eight innings or more.

Sablan, for his part, is currently leading the Junior League in batting after the Survivors slugger hit seven in 12 times at bat for a 0.583 batting average.

Teammate Jeffrey Lizama and Lions' Cedric Ada complete the Top 3 with batting averages of 0.578 (11-for-19) and 0.500 (7-for-14), respectively.

Survivors' Paul Celis, 5-for-11 and 0.454; Fielders' Davin Ada, 7-for-16 and 0.437; Red Sox's Jerald Cabrera, 5-for-1 and 0.416; Fielders' Gayvan Uchau, 4-for-10 and 0.400; Survivors' Esiah Cruz, 7-for-18 and 0.388; Fielders' Ian Rogolifoi, 3-for-8 and 0.375; Jets' Kent Kalen, 3-for-9 and 0.333; Lions' Jireh Yobech, 4-for-12 and 0.333; Fielders' Keene Guerrero, 4-for-12 and 0.333; and Survivors teammates Jeremy Lizama, 6-for-20 and 0.300; Caleb Takao, 4-for-15 and 0.266; and Jose Lizama, 4-for-15 and 0.266 round out the Top 15.

Jeffery Lizama and Ol'Aces' Raymond Yamagata, meanwhile, lead the league in RBIs with 10 and four, respectively.

Jeffrey Lizama also leads the league in runs scored with 12, ahead of Jose Lizama (9) and Jeremy Lizama (7).

Rogolifoi's two triples top a six-way tie for second place in the category, and Jeffrey Lizama leads the league in doubles with three, ahead of Sablan and Keene Guerrero; both have two.

There is a tie for the top earned run average in the league between Jets' Jonathan Villagomez and Falcons' Frankie Lieto, who each have pitched nine and a third innings with one earned run for a 0.70 ERA. Jeffrey Lizama (0.77), Jeremy Lizama (0.87), and Jose Lizama (1.27) are also listed as notables.

Jeremy Lizama has recorded the most strikeouts thus far with 22, ahead of Red Sox's Alex Mongkeya (17), Jose Lizama (16), Lions' Justin Reyes (16), and Guerrero (14).

The Junior League batting statistics were formulated based on at least eight at bats and pitching statistics were based on eight innings or more.

The statistical leaders of the Senior and Big leagues will be released in tomorrow's edition of the *Saipan Tribune*.

MOBIL

From Page 36

scored in that canto, while Mobil launched a back-breaking 26-0 blast in the last 5:45 of that period to take a commanding 47-40 halftime advantage.

Mobil drilled three straight triples in the run, one from Estolas, who had two treys in the second canto and made 11 points after being held to two markers in the first quarter. Ron Gamboa also contributed in the rally, nailing seven points off the bench. Banjo Basila, who did a good job quarterbacking for Mobil, also helped the team's offensive cause in the second canto, firing eight points, while Marvin Rabauliman added seven.

As for IP&E Konflikt, it scored only six points in the second canto with Capalad, Bernardo, De Vero, and Elmer Esdrelon struggling on offense.

The IP&E Konflikt's dry spell continued in the first three and a half minutes of the third period, allowing Mobil to lead by as much as 26 points, 56-30. A pair of free throws from Esdrelon broke IP&E Konflikt's long silence, but it was not enough to start the team's recovery.

Mobil's lead went down to as low as 11 in the fourth period, 67-56, with less than eight minutes left in the game, but again, IP&E Konflikt went cold and a quick 8-0 run gave momentum back to the Marvin Deocares-coached team.

IP&E Konflikt was too eager to bounce back that they missed a lot of shots, even the easy ones, and committed a lot of errors (22 turnovers against Mobil's 11). Esdrelon tried shooting from downtown on several occasions, but had no success most of the time, making only one triple in the closing seconds of the fourth quarter and finishing with only nine points—his lowest output in the season. De Vero muffed a lot of easy baskets, too, and free throws and was held to only two points in the second half. Bernardo also had a hard time in the paint against Mobil's mobile big men, while Capalad was scoreless in the second half. Joemary Tumaquip, who made key baskets in their semis win over NMC Proa, was held to a field goal.

In contrast, everything seemed to work well for Mobil. It had a good shooting night from downtown, hitting seven triples and drew contributions from its bench players, particularly from Gamboa and Tamayo, who finished with 14 and nine markers, respectively.

Jun Estolas, who made only 14 in their semis win against the Hoopaholics, was all over the place, making layups, short jumpers, and triples. He tallied a team-high 23 points and issued seven assists, just one less of IP&E Konflikt's total. Marvin Rabauliman chipped in 15, while Basila had 11.

Mobil 84 – Estolas 23, Rabauliman 15, Gamboa 14, Basila 11, Tamayo 9, De Guzman 4, Sharry 2, Gapor 1, Artates 1.

IP&E's Konflikt 69 – Bernardo 20, De Vero 10, Esdrelon 9, Talania 8, Capalad 8, Berline 4, Tumaquip 4, Santos 4, Mendoza 3.

Scoring by quarters: 12-24, 47-30, 65-50, 84-69.

XTERRA

From Page 36

dogs. Come out and cheer our visiting and local triathletes," Taga, Inc. president Wolf Mojica said.

The XTERRA Sunset Trail Run will start and end at Micro Beach at 5pm. Registration begins at 4:30pm.

Then tomorrow, the swim leg for XTERRA Saipan will kick off at 6:30am at Micro Beach. The Championship course will cover a 1.5-kilometer swim, 30-km mountain bike race, and 12-km run. The run and bike sections of the XTERRA race will start and end at Micro Beach. The bike portion will bring participants up to Capital Hill, Wireless, Talafofo, Kingfisher, and the famous Mt. Tapachao. The run leg will be along scenic Beach Road.

XTERRA Sport covers a 750-meter swim, 20-km bike leg, and 5-km run with participants negotiating some parts of the Championship course.

Markers, cones, and volunteers will be on the road to guide participants.

When the race kicks off tomorrow, all eyes will be on the six female pros competing for the championship. Defending champion Renate Bucher of Switzerland will be gunning for her seventh straight women's title against U.S. pros Shonny Vanlandingham and Suzie Snyder, United Kingdom's Daz Parker, Austria's Carina Wasle, and CNMI's Mieko Carey.

In the men's division, two-time XTERRA Saipan champion Sam Gardner is expected to be the runaway winner as he has only a two triathletes from Japan to compete against.

LADY

From Page 36

tering the final canto.

Whispering Palms rallied in the payoff period, but fell short, as one basket each from Lee, Jones, and Hudkins secured the win for SIS. Rastguiy and Chentsova scored four points apiece for Whispering Palms in the fourth quarter, while Gabrille Race and Minori Yoshida added two each.

Hudkins and Jones topscored for in the Lady Geckos' title win with eight points each, while Rastguiy led Whispering Palms with nine points.

The diminutive Rastguiy was eventually named the league MVP, while Frink, Calvary's Masami Sato, Seventh Day Adventist' Pauline Nimmer, and Grace Christian Academy's Jaszmin Rayphand made it to the top players selection.

SIS 24 – Jones 8, Hudkins 8, Lee 4, Frink 2, Tenorio 2.

Whispering Palms 19 – Rastguiy 9, Chentsova 4, Race 2, Yoshida 2.

Scoring by quarters: 12-4, 16-6, 18-6, 24-19.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Boston	46	16	.742	–
New York	34	29	.540	12 1/2
Philadelphia	33	31	.516	14
New Jersey	20	43	.317	26 1/2
Toronto	17	47	.266	30

Southeast Division

Miami	43	21	.672	–
Orlando	41	24	.631	2 1/2
Atlanta	37	27	.578	6
Charlotte	26	38	.406	17
Washington	16	47	.254	26 1/2

Central Division

y-Chicago	45	18	.714	–
Indiana	27	37	.422	18 1/2
Milwaukee	25	38	.397	20
Detroit	23	42	.354	23
Cleveland	12	52	.188	33 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

x-San Antonio	52	12	.813	–
Dallas	46	18	.719	6
New Orleans	38	29	.567	15 1/2
Memphis	36	30	.545	17
Houston	33	33	.500	20

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	40	23	.635	–
Denver	37	27	.578	3 1/2
Portland	37	27	.578	3 1/2
Utah	34	31	.523	7
Minnesota	16	50	.242	25 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	46	19	.708	–
Phoenix	33	29	.532	11 1/2
Golden State	28	36	.438	17 1/2
L.A. Clippers	25	40	.385	21
Sacramento	15	47	.242	29 1/2

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Yesterday's Games

Chicago 101, Charlotte 84
New Jersey 94, Golden State 90
Oklahoma City 110, Philadelphia 105, OT
Utah 96, Toronto 94
L.A. Clippers 108, Boston 103
New York 110, Memphis 108
Milwaukee 110, Cleveland 90
Minnesota 101, Indiana 75
New Orleans 93, Dallas 92
San Antonio 111, Detroit 104
Orlando 106, Sacramento 102

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Durant, OKC	58	538	449	1630	28.1
James, MIA	62	576	404	1632	26.3
Stoudemire, NYK	61	607	378	1602	26.3
Wade, MIA	60	550	385	1535	25.6
Anthony, NYK	58	510	394	1466	25.3
Bryant, LAL	65	586	374	1633	25.1
Ellis, GOL	63	591	286	1571	24.9
Rose, CHI	61	546	320	1501	24.6
Howard, ORL	61	500	410	1410	23.1
Nowitzki, DAL	54	449	286	1241	23.0
Martin, HOU	64	422	475	1456	22.8
Griffin, LAC	64	544	355	1450	22.7
Aldridge, POR	64	565	298	1432	22.4
Westbrook, OKC	62	470	423	1386	22.4
Bargnani, TOR	56	467	237	1237	22.1
Love, MIN	65	443	388	1359	20.9
Williams, NJN	58	396	321	1208	20.8
Granger, IND	62	429	301	1283	20.7
Randolph, MEM	60	482	244	1214	20.2
Lopez, NJN	62	463	301	1227	19.8

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Hilario, DEN	323	516	.626
Howard, ORL	500	834	.600
A. Johnson, TOR	257	446	.576
Horford, ATL	419	739	.567
Young, PHL	347	623	.557
Ibaka, OKC	238	428	.556
Odom, LAL	374	689	.543
Nowitzki, DAL	449	846	.531
Millsap, UTA	427	808	.528
Gasol, LAL	462	877	.527

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Love, MIN	65	306	718	1024	15.8
Howard, ORL	61	244	602	846	13.9
Randolph, MEM	60	279	492	771	12.9
Griffin, LAC	64	231	571	802	12.5
Gasol, LAL	65	221	458	679	10.4
Horford, ATL	60	159	434	593	9.9
Lee, GOL	54	163	363	526	9.7
Humphries, NJN	62	173	425	598	9.6
Chandler, DAL	57	158	378	536	9.4
Jefferson, UTA	64	172	420	592	9.3

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Rondo, BOS	50	608	12.2
Nash, PHX	60	686	11.4
Williams, NJN	58	590	10.2
Paul, NOR	65	627	9.6
Calderon, TOR	56	519	9.3
Wall, WAS	51	450	8.8
Felton, DEN	60	525	8.8
Westbrook, OKC	62	521	8.4
Kidd, DAL	63	524	8.3
Rose, CHI	61	494	8.1

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROP 10: Bad Intentions set tonight

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Trench Tech Purebred Promotions' Rites of Passage 10: Bad Intentions goes down tonight at the Saipan World Resort with doors opening at 7pm with the fights expected to start at 8pm.

ROP 10 marks Trench Tech's first mixed martial arts event of the year and features fighters from the United States, Guam, Saipan, and Tinian.

ROP 10 features a triple main event that concludes with a Guam versus Saipan welterweight bout between Trench Tech's Jason "The Rush" Tarkong (9-2) and undefeated T.J. Cruz (2-0) of Guam's Kisetsu Warriors.

Tarkong is looking to notch his 10th win after a two-year break from the cage, while the flawless Cruz looks to make it three in a row.

The Tarkong-Cruz fight will be preceded by a U.S. versus Saipan super fight featuring USA's Will "The Kill" Chope (1-1) squaring off against Fasi "Quick Draw" Jesse (6-3) in a lightweight battle.

King

San Nicolas

Chope stands 6'4" and trains under the Dragon Muay Tai fight team in Orange Park, Florida. Jesse is looking to bounce back from a loss in Trench Warz 13: Vengeance.

Before the USA versus Saipan super fight, a juicy rematch between featherweights Derrick "El Peligro" Rangamar (4-8) of Marianas Elite and Trench Tech's Chris "No Luv" Laayug (6-1) is expected to excite the crowd.

Layuug beat Rangamar the first time they met at ROP 5: Raging Warriors back in 2008, however Rangamar is coming off a couple of big wins from 2010.

In all, 14 other MMA bouts, a grappling and submission challenge, a K-1 kickboxing duel, and a pair of exhibition boxing matches are listed on the fight card.

Aside from Cruz, three other Guam fighters will be making the trip over.

Team Counter Shot's Leandro Dalalo will face either Roman Cabrera or Raegan Mality in a bantamweight brawl.

Dalalo's teammate Eric Aguon will debut against Marianas Elite's Josh Cruz (1-2) in a 140-lb catch-weight bout, and lightweight Kekai King of Guam's Barrigada BJJ team will challenge Zalaka's Harry Nekaifes in ROP 10's grappling and submission match.

ROP 10 will also showcase Trench Tech's first-ever youth boxing exhibition between Trench Tech stable-mates P.J. "Lightning" Litulumar and Josenio "Little Bear" Alvarez Litulumar.

Other featured fights include a pair of heavyweight MMA brawls.

Kelvin "YoGee" King of Tinian will challenge Marianas Elite's Derrick San Nicolas and super heavyweight Jarick Atalig will be pitted against Mylo "Alabama" Lassiter (1-0).

Tickets cost $20 for all seats and are on sale right now at Boarderline, 670 Rocksteady Shop, Hannam Super Market, Trapp Urban Boutique, and Trench Tech Gym in San Antonio.

Ol'Aces rally against Hunters, 5-4

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Rep. Ramon S. Basa-Randy Fenner Ol'Aces snuck up on the JC Marketing-Toothworks Hunters and laid them to rest, 5-4, in Wednesday night's Big League matchup at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

In addition, the Senior League Tan Holdings' Fielders fanned the Rep. Rafael Demapan Heats, 22-0, in last Monday's night feature as the 2011 season of the Saipan Little League Baseball continued its weekday matches.

Back on Wednesday, the Hunters managed an early lead, but Ol'Aces tied the game at 4-4 in the fifth, took the lead, 5-4, in the bottom of the sixth, before holding on to stuff the Hunters in the final frame.

In the Senior League, the undefeated Fielders reemphasized why they are the top-ranked team in the division with four wins.

WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND

Ol'Aces pitcher Leonard Sablan went the distance and allowed three earned runs off six hits and gave up two walks with four strikeouts in their Big League matchup against the Hunters Wednesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

BIG LEAGUE
Ol'Aces 5, Hunters 4

The Hunters took a 3-0 lead in the top of the first inning off a pair of RBI singles by James Welley and Lincoln Ingram; Welley also scored off a wild pitch.

Ol'Aces pitcher Leonard Sablan belted a one-out triple to help his cause and was granted free passage to the plate after an illegal fake tag by the Hunters' third baseman Ingram.

Both teams went 1-2-3 in the second and the Hunters went ahead, 4-1, off a fielder's choice at the start of the third.

The Ol'Aces answered and pulled within one, 3-4, in the bottom frame off a leadoff hit and three errors.

Later in the bottom of the fifth, Ol'Aces' Diego Camacho led off with a hit, was moved over to second, and scored the tying run off an RBI single by J.T. Taitano.

Ol'Aces' pitcher Sablan iced the Hunters in the top of the sixth and his team took the lead, 5-4, in the bottom frame.

Keoni Lizama led off and reached off an error and two outs later, it was ninth-batter Nikko Masga who stepped in ripped the go-ahead run. Two walks later the bases were loaded, but the Hunters got out of the jam.

Sablan then stepped to the mound and closed the game in just four at bats.

Sablan allowed three earned runs off six hits and gave up two walks with four strikeouts. Ol'Aces' Masga batted 2-for-3 with a big RBI, a run, and a stolen base.

Fielders 22, Heats 0

The home team Fielders got right to work and forced a 1-2-3 effort by the Heats before unloading an eight-run onslaught in the bottom frame.

Peter Lieto and Poland Masaharu led off with hits and Carl Camacho reached off an error that brought in Lieto.

Jacob Tamokane then drove in Masaharu and a fly out later Jared Lizama followed suit and scored Tomokane with an RBI knock; Lizama touched home later off an error. A ground out later Alex Aldan and Patrick Tenorio reached off a walk and an error that set up a two-RBI single by Lieto; Lieto scored off an error in the next at bat.

Heats left runners at first and second and the Fielders added a run off an error in the bottom frame.

The Heats went 1-2-3 to start the third and the Fielders jumped ahead, 15-0, in the bottom frame.

The first two batters reached on a bean ball and a hit that setup a second two-RBI single by Lieto. Masaharu came next and drove Lieto home and Alan Aguon and Lizama followed suit with two more RBI singles; Lizama scored on an error soon after.

Heats got caught in a double play and it was three up and three down again for them at the start of the fifth and the Fielders piled on seven more runs in the bottom frame.

With runners on, Carl Camacho cleared the bases with a double and scored later off an error. The Fielders loaded the bases and got a freebie run off a bean ball. Then Alex Aldan hit a sacrifice fly and the rest came off errors.

Technically the game was over at, 20-0, after four innings, but the game continued anyways. Nonetheless, Fielders' Alonzo Pedro came to the mound to close the game for starting pitcher Camacho in the top of the fifth with a walk and three strikeouts.

Fielders' Camacho allowed two hits and two walks with two strikeouts in the shutout. Lieto batted 3-for-5 with four RBIs and three runs. Every Fielders player scored and of those, all but one touched home less than twice in the game.

46 teams join NMIFA spring league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association will kick off its youth spring league tomorrow with 46 teams competing in various age groups.

Dubbed as the 2011 NMIFA Youth Spring League, the event will feature contests in the co-ed U6, U8, U10, and U12 divisions, girls and boys U15, and the boys U18.

The co-ed U6 division has five teams in Matansa Football Club, Paire Football Club, Tan Holdings Football Club, MP United, and Shirley's Football Club. The U8 category lured nine teams with Paire, Tan Holdings, MP United, and Shirley's fielding two teams each and Matansa having one.

The co-ed U18 division drew the most teams this spring season, as 10 squads will compete in the category. Paire has entered three teams, Matansa, Tan Holdings, and MP United have two apiece, and Shirley's has one.

Matansa has the most teams in U12 with three, while Paire and MP United have two each. Completing the list are Tan Holdings and Shirley's.

The competitive girls U15 division will feature four teams: Matansa, Paire, Tan Holdings, and MP United, while the boys U15 will have the same four teams mentioned above plus Shirley's.

Independents Football Club will only be participating in the boys U18 against MP United, Paire, and Matansa.

Games in the spring league will be played at the various school fields on Saipan and at the CPA and Oleai Sports Complex fields.

For the U8, eight teams will play in the opening week, while Shirley's 2 draws a bye this Saturday. Shirley's 1 will take on Paire 2 at Oleai, Matansa will meet MP United 2 at GTC, MP United 1 will face Tan Holdings 1 at Navy Hill and Tan Holdings 2 will duel Paire 1 at San Antonio. All games will be played at 3pm.

For U8, all matches will start at 2pm. The pairing are as follows: Shirleys vs. Paire 2 at Oleai; Matansa 1 vs. MP United 2 at GTC; MPU 1 vs. Tan Holdings 1 at Garapan; Tan Holdings 2 vs. Paire 1 at San Antonio; and Paire 3 vs. Matansa at Dandan.

Games in the U12 are set for 2pm with Shirley's meeting Paire 2 at Hopwood field 1 and Matansa G2 challenging MPU 1 at Hopwood 2. Paire 1 will battle Matansa T1 at Dandan and Tan Holdings will meet Matansa G1 at San Antonio.

The lone boys U15 game between MP United and Paire is scheduled at the CPA Field at 3pm, while in the girls division, Matansa will play MPU at Hopwood 1 at 3pm and Tan Holdings will square off against Paire at Hopwood 2 at 4:30pm.

MP United and Paire will collided in the first boys U18 game at 12pm at the CPA Field.

Badminton doubles tourney kicks off tomorrow

Northern Marianas Badminton Association will have its first tournament of the season via the 2011 Tan Holdings Mixed/Doubles Badminton Competition that will kick off tomorrow.

Players participating in the weekend competition will come from the seven newly formed badminton clubs in the CNMI. The list includes Taga Badminton Club, United Knights BC, X'Treme Pirates BC, Saipan International BC, Shirley's BC, Golden Racquets, and Berks Blazers BC.

NMBA decided to implement a club system in its competitions to encourage membership and ensure continuity with its development program. Each club has an average of 18 members.

The association is still open for membership with an annual fee of $20 for adults and $10 for youth.

NMBA is accepting new members. Annual membership fee is $20 for adult and $10 for youth. Upon payment of annual membership fee, a new member is entitled for one free use of the NMBA gym at the REM Center in Gualo Rai. Members then must pay $20 (adults) or $10 (youth) for the usage of the facility for the entire month. Another option for the usage of the facility is to pay $3 daily for NMBA members and $5 for non-members.

Meanwhile, the mixed doubles/doubles tournament will run until April 3 with the opening ceremony set for 6pm tomorrow.

For more information, contact NMBA secretary Merlie Tolentino at 235-3706 ext 124. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Mobil win away from UBA title

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Mobil drew first blood in the title series in the 2nd Docomo Pacific/UBA Men's League, capitalizing on IP&E Konflikt's monumental second-quarter collapse en route to an 84-69 win in Game 1 on Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Game 2 will be played on Monday and IP&E Konflikt must prevail to force a deciding Game 3.

IP&E Konflikt boosted its chances to win the opener of the short series when it led by double digits at the end of the opening quarter, 24-12. Mel Capalad anchored IP&E Konflikt's early attack, scoring the team's last eight points, while Kae Bernardo and Ivan De Vero had six markers apiece.

IP&E Konflikt was still in control of the game in the first four minutes of the second canto, leading at 30-21, after De Vero's eighth points. However, that was the last time IP&E Konflikt

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mobil's Ron Gamboa gets away with an easy layup, while IP&E Konflikt's Marlon De Dios looks on during the third quarter of Game 1 of their title series in the UBA/Docomo caging on Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Lady Geckos claim JV title

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan International School outclassed Whispering Palms, 24-19, to clinch the girls junior varsity division crown in the 2010-2011 Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association Basketball League yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Lady Geckos got off to a good start, taking a 12-4 lead in the first period and hung in there to stun the top-seeded Whispering Palms.

Emily Jones and Adele Hudkins had four points each for SIS in the opening quarter, while Seong Hyun Lee and Phalai Frink chipped in two apiece to give the Lady Geckos an eight-point lead after six minutes of play.

Whispering Palms drew all its points in the first quarter from Negahr Rastguiy, who also had her team's lone field goal in the second period.

Sophia Tenorio broke made it to the scoreboard for SIS in the second quarter, while Jones added another two points, lifting the Lady Geckos to a 16-6 advantage at the break.

Both teams then struggled at the start of the second half with Whispering Palms failing to score in the third canto after Victoria Chentsova and Rastguiy missed two free throws each.

The Lady Geckos had only two points in the third period, courtesy of Hudkins' basket for an 18-6 lead, en-

See LADY on Page 34

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Members of Saipan International School girls basketball team and their coaches pose with their championship trophy after beating Whispering Palms in the finals of the junior varsity division of the COPSSA caging yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

XTERRA Saipan draws 104 participants

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

All is set for tomorrow's 2011 XTERRA Saipan Championship with the annual off-road triathlon drawing 104 participants.

Off the more than 100 individuals, 56 will compete in the solo race and eight in the team event in the XTERRA Championship. In the shorter course—XTERRA Sport—16 will do the individual race and five will battle in the team division.

"Everything seems to be running smoothly. The compound is in place and we will take last-minute entries for the Sunset Trail Run today. Drivers please be careful on Saturday morning in Garapan and on Isa Drive in Capital Hill. Dog owners, please tie up your

See XTERRA on Page 34

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Local triathletes pose with Austria's Carina Wasle, center, during a practices swim at the 'Tanks" in Susupe on Wednesday in preparation for tomorrow's 2011 XTERRA Saipan.

Atalig, Sablan top divisions in batting

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

First of a two-part series

The Twins' John Atalig Jr. and the Survivors' Phillip Sablan are currently leading the batting race in the Major and Junior divisions, respectively, of the 2011 season of Saipan Little League Baseball.

Atalig is hitting the ball at a phenomenal rate, making contact eight in 10 times at bat for a 0.800 batting percentage.

Rays' Peterson Rengiil is second with a 0.750 average after going 12-for-16, followed by Ol'Aces' Allen Cepeda, 8-for-11 and 0.727; and Red Sox's Jonathan Camacho, 8-for-11 and 0.727.

Enforcers' Cedric Camacho, 12-for-20 and 0.600; Red Sox's Craig Aguon; 9-for-15 and 0.600; Enforcers' Henry Lizama, 10-for-18 and 0.555; Twins' Roke Tenorio, 5-for-9 and 0.555; Jets' Franklyn Lizama, 6-for-11 and 0.545; Rays' J.D. Delos Santos, 8-for-15 and 0.533; IP&E Strikers' Juden Joyner, 6-for-12 and 0.500; IP&E Strikers' Perry Celis, 5-for-10 and 0.500; and

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